SATURDAY
September 6, 2025

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MILITARY PREPAREDNESS

Govt. to expand drone warfare capabilities

NEWS » PAGE 14

GST REDUCTION

'Will make sure benefit reaches consumers'

NEWS » PAGE 13

COMFORTABLE WIN

Thailand Parliament picks Anutin as PM

WORLD » PAGE 16

HANGING BY A THREAD

Unravelling at the seams

U.S. tariffs have upended operations in the apparel hubs in T.N.

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

THE BIG ONE

India meets China in final Super 4s match

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

CM welcomes rationalisation of GST rates

BENGALURU
In a belated response to the revamped GST slabs, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah welcomed the Centre's decision on rationalisation of GST rates, but cautioned that the reduction in rates must lower prices for people.
» PAGE 8

Civic chiefs carry out inspections

BENGALURU
The Commissioners of Bengaluru's newly formed city corporations conducted early morning field inspections across their corporations on Friday. » PAGE 4

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 6

U.S. has 'lost' India, Russia to 'darkest' China: Trump

Commerce Secretary Lutnick says New Delhi has to decide which side it wants to be on; U.S. tariffs were due to a 'miscalculation' of India's traditional position in world affairs, say Indian officials

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Continuing his critical remarks about India, U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday said the United States has "lost" India to China, in a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin earlier this week.

The External Affairs Ministry did not offer any official response to Mr. Trump's remarks. However, Ministry officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said India's understanding is that the U.S. tariff attack on India was due to a "miscalculation" of India's traditional position in world affairs.

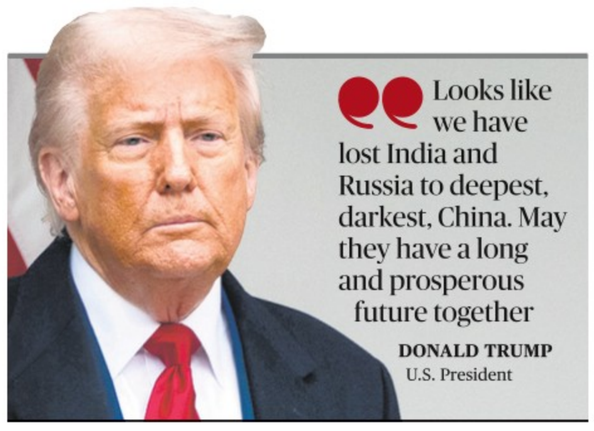
"Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future together," Mr. Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social.

His remarks were amplified later by U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick who appeared on a Bloomberg morning programme and asked India to "stop being a part of BRICS", a grouping of emerging nations which also includes Brazil, Russia, China, and South Africa.

"They [India] either need to decide which side they want to be on," Mr. Lutnick said.

Asked for a response to Mr. Trump's remarks, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said he did not have anything to say on the matter. Mr. Jaiswal, however, responded to Mr. Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro's remarks about "Brahmins" in India "profiteering" from India's oil trade with Russia and called them misleading and inaccurate.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12



> Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future together
>
> DONALD TRUMP
> U.S. President

Jaishankar to join BRICS summit on U.S. tariffs: MEA

NEW DELHI
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will represent India at a virtual summit of BRICS nations convened by Brazil to discuss U.S. tariffs on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Friday.» PAGE 12

Meitei group rejects govt.'s SoO pact with Kuki-Zo outfits

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), one of the largest Meitei civil society groups in Manipur, has rejected the signing of Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the Kuki-Zo insurgent groups.

It said the decision taken by the Centre "reflects an undemocratic and hegemonic imposition upon the indigenous people and its elected representatives of Manipur". The Home Ministry and the Manipur government signed the pact with the Kuki-Zo groups on Thursday with "re-negotiated terms and conditions or ground rules". It comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to Manipur on September 13.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

HUDCO approves ₹9,303.66 cr. loan for Tunnel Road project

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has issued a loan sanction letter to Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE), approving a loan of ₹9,303.66 crore for the construction of the first corridor of the Twin Tunnel Road project (North-South corridor).

HUDCO has instructed the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) B-SMILE to furnish the required supporting documents and execute a formal agreement before the loan is operationalised.

The North-South corridor, which stretches 16.8 km, is estimated to cost ₹17,780.13 crore.

Interest rate

According to the sanction letter dated August 4, 2025, reviewed by *The Hindu*, the loan will primarily be disbursed on the guarantee of the State government.

The loan will have an interest rate of 8.95% for the first year, finalised after a rebate of 0.10%.

The loan has a total tenure of 24 years and 2 months (290 months), which includes a draw period of 4 years and 2 months (50 months), followed by a repayment period of 20 years (240 months). The disbursement of funds will be carried out in mutually agreed phases, according to the letter.

Signboards

The letter further stipulates that B-SMILE must display signboards at all project sites, particularly in high-visibility locations, clearly acknowledging HUDCO's financial assistance.

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SATURDAY SEPT 06 | 10:00 AM ONWARDS

Dr. T. P. Ganesan Auditorium, SRMIST - Kattankulathur

Event Agenda

10:00 AM
Inauguration of SRM School of Law

10:50 AM | Opening Address
Dr. T. R. Paarivendhar,
Founder & Chancellor, SRM Groups

11:00 AM | Special Address
Dr. P. Sathyanarayanan,
Pro Chancellor (Academics), SRMIST

11:15 AM | First Keynote Address
Hon'ble Former Chief Justice Mr. N. V. Ramana,
Supreme Court of India

11:30 AM | Second Keynote Address
Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
[Topic: Judicial reforms and systemic changes required for faster, fairer justice delivery]

11:55 AM | First Fireside Chat
Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
[Topic: Constitutional Morality and the Future of Indian Democracy]

12:20 PM | Third Keynote Address
Hon'ble Justice Mr. Sanjay Karol,
Supreme Court of India
[Topic: Evolution of law to accommodate evolving socio-economic realities of current India + Q&A with students]

12:35 PM | Second Fireside Chat
Hon'ble Former Justice Mr. Deepak Gupta,
Supreme Court of India

12:55 PM | Third Fireside Chat
Mr. Satya Pal Jain,
Additional Solicitor General
[Topic: Realizing Justice for All: Upholding Rights, Strengthening Democracy]

01:15 PM | First Panel Discussion
[Topic: Law and Ethics for Viksit Bharat]
Dr. Pinky Anand,
Former Additional Solicitor General
Mr. Nalin Kohli,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Dr. Pradeep Rai,
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Prof. Sree Sudha P,
Dean, School of Law, SRMIST

01:45 PM | Special Address
Hon'ble Former Chief Justice Mr. Chakradhari Sharan Singh,
High Court of Orissa

02:00 PM | Fourth Keynote Address
Hon'ble Former Chief Justice Ms. Gita Mittal,
High Court of Jammu & Kashmir
[Topic: Defining Justice and Access]

02:15 to 03:00 PM - LUNCH

03:00 PM | Fifth Keynote Address
Hon'ble Justice Dr. Anita Sumanth,
Madras High Court
[Topic: Women in Law: Shaping the Future of Indian Jurisprudence]

03:15 PM | Fourth Fireside Chat
Mr. Cyril Shroff,
Managing Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
[Topic: Law in the Age of Disruption: AI, ESG and Digital Transformation]

03:30 PM | Second Panel Discussion
[Topic: AI, Cybersecurity, and the Future of Legal Careers]
Ms. Swapna Sundar,
Senior Partner, PVS Giridhar Associates
Mr. Jayant Saran,
Partner, Forensic & Financial Crime Strategy, Risk & Transactions, Deloitte India
Mr. Arunbalaji Alagappan,
Partner, Forensic and Integrity Services, EY
Prof. Vinay Kumar A,
Pro-Vice Chancellor (SBL), SRMIST

04:00 PM | Sixth Keynote Address
Hon'ble Former Justice Mr. Ajay Rastogi,
Supreme Court of India
[Topic: Labour Justice in a Changing India: Balancing Rights and Economic Growth]

04:15 PM | Fifth Fireside Chat
Hon'ble Former Chief Justice Mr. Uday Umesh Lalit,
Supreme Court of India
[Topic: Strengthening Justice Delivery: Lessons from the Supreme Court]

04:30 PM | Vote of Thanks
Prof. Sree Sudha P,
Dean, School of Law, SRMIST

GETTY IMAGES

Liverpool's versatile workhorse with the magic foot

Dominik Szoboszlai is that rare footballer — a role-player willing to fill in wherever needed and do whatever is asked of him, but also a creator and ball-striker who can define big games. He doesn't always get the attention some others do, but the value he offers the Reds is priceless

> I can make decisions that are not easy, but for me the team is in front of everything. I feel if the team is happy, every individual is happy
> **DOMINIK SZOBOSZLAI**

Reuters
Associated Press

When Dominik Szoboszlai stepped up to take a free-kick in the 83rd minute at Anfield last weekend, he knew he had an opportunity to decide a cagey game of tactical chess in which Liverpool and Arsenal had nullified each other.

Remarkably, he had the wherewithal to think clearly. He assessed what 'keeper David Raya was most likely to do, weighed up his options and made the brave choice. A sublime free-kick dipped and curled perfectly in off Raya's right-hand post to leave the Spaniard helpless. The inch-perfect execution of the strike was as spectacular as the thought that went into it.

Shooting his shot

"I had to take a risk," Szoboszlai told *Sky Sports*, "and shoot it a little bit harder because I know Raya likes to jump behind the wall and, of course, he's an unbelievable goalkeeper. So if I think it goes a little bit more inside [closer to the 'keeper than the post], he saves it. I should mention Trent [Alexander-Arnold]. He was taking the free-kicks because, obviously, he has an unbelievable shot. But finally I could have my chance and I did it."

The tense clash between the two leading contenders for the Premier League crown demanded something special. "The game needed a moment of magic for either team to win it," Liverpool manager Arne Slot said, "and it was Dominik who did so." Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta's independent analysis was similar – the margins were so thin, he said, that only an individual error or an extraordinary moment could make the difference.

Match-winning ability is rare, often seen as the preserve of the maverick attacker or the generational talent. Szoboszlai is something of a unicorn – an all-around, tactically intelligent, hard-working midfielder happy to do the team's dirty work, but ready to change a big game with imagination, ball-striking and, if all else fails, sheer willpower.

> You have to run and press, otherwise you can have as much quality as you want, you won't be fully taken in. You have to commit to and make the sprint every single time
> **SZOBOSZLAI**

In Liverpool's previous Premier League game against Newcastle, Szoboszlai played a key role in teenager Rio Ngumoha's match-winner. He attracted a defender with a sharp central run into the box, having scanned behind him to see that this would buy Ngumoha space. He then sold his marker a convincing dummy, leaving Ngumoha free to bury the ball in the far corner.

In both matches, Szoboszlai operated at right-back – a new position for him, but just another role added to the multifaceted portfolio the Hungary midfielder has steadily built up. When Jurgen Klopp brought him to Merseyside from RB Leipzig in 2023, Szoboszlai was best known as an attacking-midfielder. But Klopp had identified other uses. "I don't think he played the position he plays for us at Leipzig. He played on the wing, as a No. 10 more inside. [But with us, he's played] as an eight, a six, a double six as well, so it is really interesting to watch how quickly he adapts and develops," Klopp said in September 2023.

Two years on, we know exactly how well he has adapted and developed. In his first Liverpool season, under Klopp, he played in central midfield, fulfilling a range of instructions within the system. Last season, under Slot, his role changed again.

"[In 2023-24], I was more an eight," he told *Sky Sports* earlier this year. "This season [2024-25], there's more of an attacking part, a freer role. But I have to cover a lot [of ground] on the right side. I'm doing that for Mo [Salah], for the team. Sometimes I feel if I wouldn't do that, I would have more energy for attacking. But I feel if the team is happy, every individual is happy."

> He understands what a Liverpool player should look like. If you wear this shirt, you should give everything, no matter in what position you play
> **ARNE SLOT**
> Liverpool manager

Into the breach

Over four games in 2025-26, Szoboszlai has already morphed into several puzzle pieces so Slot can fit him in where Liverpool has been depleted by injury. In the Community Shield and in the first Premier League game, the 24-year-old was used as a deep midfielder in Ryan Gravenberch's absence. Then, when right-back Jeremie Frimpong injured his hamstring, Szoboszlai was plugged into that gap. He has still found a way to influence matches.

"He understands what a Liverpool player should look like. If you wear this shirt, you should give everything, no matter in what position you play," Slot said. "Unbelievable from him in a position he has probably played only two or three times in his life."

Szoboszlai's work ethic and versatility have endeared him to Liverpool fans, but Slot might have found something even more significant than he first anticipated. Alexander-Arnold, who moved to Real Madrid, was impossible to replace because he has such a unique skill-set. But Szoboszlai does a fair impression of the former Reds right-back.

Whether it was spraying cross-field balls or making blindside runs into midfield, he showed that he can provide a different tactical angle even when Slot's first-choice right-back returns. Indeed, a mid-game shift in position could catch the opposition unawares. For a manager who excels at making small adjustments during the 90 minutes, Szoboszlai offers immense value.

The Hungary captain is very good on the ball, with a record of stepping up in cup finals and games against top rivals. He has the ability to progress play with long passes or short combinations, and can elude pressure with a deft feint or quick burst. He is exceptional without the ball, an intelligent, determined presser who loves the duel.

"You have to run and press, otherwise you can have as much quality as you want, you won't be fully taken in," he told the Red Bull website. "It's not easy, but that's what you learn in the Red Bull system. You learn when and how to make your run. The most crucial part, though, is that you can't miss your sprint. You have to commit to and make the sprint every single time."

Szoboszlai's early football life, which included training with his father, a former player, and leaving home as a teenager to turn professional, has shaped his character. "When I started, me and my dad, we had a plan. He put me on the highest level that I should play," Szoboszlai said. "He was always harder with me than with the others. He always wanted me to be the best, and now I understand why he did it, and now we are close, we are very close."

Team before self

But the ambitious upbringing has not bred a selfish player. A defining quality of Szoboszlai's game is his desire to put the team's interests before his own.

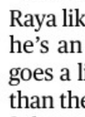
"I just do my things," he said. "If the goals are coming they are coming, if the assists are coming they are coming. The team should be successful. If the team is successful you're going to be successful as a person, as a player. I can make decisions that are not easy, but for me the team is in front of everything." It's no surprise that he has fit in so well at Liverpool.

STACKING UP

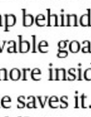
ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	11,480	17
2	Carlos Alcaraz	22	9,590	20
3	Alexander Zverev	28	6,230	23
4	Taylor Fritz	27	5,575	22
5	Jack Draper	23	4,440	17
6	Ben Shelton	22	4,280	23
7	Novak Djokovic	38	4,130	19
8	Alex de Minaur	26	3,545	23
9	Karen Khachanov	29	3,240	25
10	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,205	20
11	Holger Rune	22	3,050	22
12	Casper Ruud	26	2,905	23
13	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,760	22
14	Tommy Paul	28	2,610	21
15	Andrey Rublev	27	2,610	28

Top Indians ▶



Sumit Nagal
Rank 293 ▲ 6 spots



Aryan Shah
Rank 399 ▼ 7 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	11,225	18
2	Iga Swiatek	24	7,933	16
3	Coco Gauff	21	7,874	19
4	Jessica Pegula	31	4,903	22
5	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,733	19
6	Madison Keys	30	4,699	19
7	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,433	18
8	Jasmine Paolini	29	4,116	19
9	Amanda Anisimova	23	3,869	21
10	Elena Rybakina	26	3,663	21
11	Emma Navarro	24	2,960	26
12	Ekaterina Alexandrova	30	2,916	25
13	Karolina Muchova	29	2,838	16
14	Clara Tauson	22	2,781	24
15	Elina Svitolina	30	2,726	15

Top Indians ▶

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 331 ▲ 5 spots

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 346 ▲ 4 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	309	7
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	275	5
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	205	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	184	1
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	151	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	109	0
7	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	64	0
8	Alexander Albon	Williams	64	0
9	Nico Hulkenberg	Kick Sauber	37	0
10	Isack Hadjar	Racing Bulls	37	0
11	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	32	0
12	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	30	0
13	Esteban Ocon	Haas	28	0
14	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	20	0
15	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	20	0
16	Oliver Bearman	Haas	16	0
17	Carlos Sainz	Williams	16	0
18	Gabriel Bortoleto	Kick Sauber	14	0
19	Yuki Tsunoda	Red Bull	12	0
20	Franco Colapinto	Alpine	0	0

Oscar Piastri

Lando Norris

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	584	12
2	Ferrari	260	0
3	Mercedes	248	1
4	Red Bull	214	2
5	Williams	80	0
6	Aston Martin	62	0
7	RB	60	0
8	Kick Sauber	51	0
9	Haas	44	0
10	Alpine	20	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,10,397	12
2	Anders Antonsen	98,613	16
3	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	95,079	19
4	Li Shi Feng	81,078	18
5	Jonatan Christie	79,314	17
6	Chou Tien Chen	78,769	24
7	Alex Lanier	69,501	15
8	Loh Kean Yew	66,719	17
9	Kodai Naraoka	65,094	19
10	Christo Popov	63,417	19
11	Kenta Nishimoto	58,442	22
12	Weng Hong Yang	57,320	17
13	Toma Junior Popov	56,731	19
14	Lu Guang Zu	56,360	18
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	56,222	19

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 20

Ayush Shetty
Rank 31

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,11,270	13
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,06,862	17
3	Han Yue	92,600	17
4	Akane Yamaguchi	89,364	13
5	Chen Yu Fei	88,835	13
6	Pornpawee Chochuwong	71,858	20
7	Putri Kusuma Wardani	69,200	19
8	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	68,360	14
9	Tomoka Miyazaki	66,464	21
10	Ratchanok Intanon	62,464	19
11	Supanida Katethong	62,207	14
12	Sim Yu Jin	60,089	15
13	Gao Fang Jie	59,130	13
14	P.V. Sindhu	56,234	17
15	Yeo Jia Min	56,203	15

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 14

Malvika Bansod
Rank 29

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	908	932
2	Harry Brook	868	898
3	Kane Williamson	858	919
4	Steve Smith	816	947
5	Yashasvi Jaiswal	792	858
6	Temba Bavuma	790	806
7	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
8	Rishabh Pant	768	801
9	Daryl Mitchell	748	807
10	Ben Duckett	747	787

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	889	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	851	902
3	Matt Henry	846	846
4	Pat Cummins	838	914
5	Josh Hazlewood	815	864
6	Noman Ali	806	806
7	Scott Boland	784	784
8	Nathan Lyon	769	812
9	Marco Jansen	767	803
10	Mitchell Starc	766	807

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Rohit Sharma	756	882
3	Babar Azam	739	898
4	Virat Kohli	736	909
5	Daryl Mitchell	720	751
6	Charith Asalanka	716	725
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Shai Hope	699	802
10	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Keshav Maharaj	690	741
2	Maheesh Theekshana	659	686
3	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
4	Bernard Scholtz	643	648
5	Rashid Khan	640	799
6	Mitchell Santner	637	657
7	Matt Henry	622	691
8	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733
9	Wanindu Hasaranga	607	619
10	Gudakesh Motie	605	699

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
2	Tilak Varma	804	845
3	Philip Salt	791	881
4	Jos Buttler	772	774
5	Travis Head	771	885
6	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
7	Pathum Nissanka	736	736
8	Tim Seifert	725	727
9	Tim David	676	680
10	Yashasvi Jaiswal	673	781

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jacob Duffy	717	723
2	Adil Rashid	710	747
3	Akeal Hosein	707	714
4	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
5	Adam Zampa	700	746
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	809
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Rashid Khan	669	828
9	Nathan Ellis	658	664
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

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BHIMA

HUDCO for transfer of premium FAR, ad revenue to SPV to fund tunnel roads

The housing corporation also seeks first charge over the funds held within the Escrow account; condition likely to hit revenue generation potential of the newly formed five corporations in the city

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

To safeguard repayment of the loan that it is providing to build tunnel roads in Bengaluru, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has directed Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd. (B-SMILE) to submit a government order transferring proceeds from premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and advertisement revenue from auctioning advertising rights under the new bylaws across the city, directly to the SPV.

B-SMILE is also required to open an Escrow account, where both premium FAR proceeds and advertisement revenues will be exclusively deposited. "HUDCO shall at all times possess a first charge over the funds held within this Escrow account," the letter said.

This condition is expected to hit the revenue generation potential of the newly formed five corporations in Bengaluru. Both Premium FAR and new advertisement byelaws were notified earlier this year. This year's civic budget estimates a revenue of ₹750 crore from advertisement revenue and ₹2,000 crore from Premium FAR. This is a significant chunk of revenue that the newly formed corporations, especially the poorer ones would have been looking forward to shore up their revenues. However, the government seems to have pledged the same and taken it out of their hands even before the formation of the corporations

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) should provide documents ensuring budgetary provisions in its accounts for loan repayment and the GBA must also issue a commitment that any shortfall in revenues from FAR and advertisements, in relation to HUDCO's repayment liabilities, will be compensated by GBA through its alternative receipts.

"In case the premium FAR and advertisement revenues are not commensurate with the projected cash flows, the agency shall ensure to provide a commitment letter from the government, duly concurred by the Finance Department, to make good the shortfall for servicing the HUDCO loan," the letter further states.

The comparison

Parameters	Bengaluru Tunnel Project	Thane Tunnel	Orange Gate Tunnel
Corridor length	16.8 km	12 km	5 km
Total tunnel length	14.4 km	10 km	3 km
Outer diameter	14.6 m	13 m	12 m
Estimated project cost	17,780 crore	16,600 crore	8,750 crore
Estimated tunnel cost	11,100 crore	12,500 crore	4,000 crore
Cost for a unit length of tunnel	770 cr./km	1,215 cr./km	1,316 cr./km

Government share more than 40%

While the government had earlier said that the project would be financed through the Build-Operate-Own-Transfer (BOOT) model, where the concessionaire would shoulder 60% of the cost with the remaining 40% borne by the government, HUDCO's sanction letter sets a different financial structure. As per the letter, B-SMILE will be responsible for 47.67% of the project cost, amounting to ₹8,476.47 crore of the estimated total cost.

Rules and conditions

HUDCO has also cautioned that the sanctioned loan must not be diverted to any other project. The SPV is required to submit quarterly progress reports, while HUDCO will conduct site inspections before releasing each instalment.

Confirming the development, B.S. Prahallad, Technical Director, B-SMILE, told *The Hindu* that they have received the sanction letter and the required documents were being prepared. "We will submit the documents after closing the tender, as certain details about the concessionaire are necessary," he said. He also reassured that the project would not impose any direct financial burden on the public, as it has been deliberately structured to be funded through premium FAR and advertisement revenues.

The project tender, originally scheduled to close on September 3, had to be extended to September 23 following requests from prospective bidders for additional time. Nearly 11 firms participated in the pre-bid meeting, including several international companies that have tied up with Indian partners to bid for the project.

Transport dept. nets ₹1.20 crore in fines in drive against unauthorised use of logos

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Transport Department has penalised nearly 15,000 motorists since 2019 for unauthorised use of government emblems, names, and logos on vehicles.

According to official data accessed by *The Hindu*, between December 28, 2019, and July 31, 2025, a total of 14,982 vehicles attracted a fined, with ₹1,20,61,097 collected in penalties.

However, citizens insist that the crackdown has not been effective, as such violations continue to be commonly seen on roads in Bengaluru.

Misuse

Officials said that motorists often misuse their registration plates by displaying emblems of government departments, boards, and associations without authorisation.

In several cases, number plates were found carrying names, designations, or symbols unrelated to registration details.

"Routine checks are being conducted across Karnataka to curb such violations," a Transport Department official said.

Prohibition

The crackdown is not limited to government insignia. Officials said that unauthorised logos and names of non-governmental organisations are also prohibited.

"Earlier government orders have reinforced that displaying unnecessary names or emblems on number plates violates Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 (Rules 50 and 51) and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950," said a Transport Department official.

He further urged vehicle owners to ensure their number plates conform to prescribed standards, warning of tighter enforcement against 'fancy' fonts, unclear lettering, and decorative designs.

In Bengaluru, fines for defective plates stand at ₹500 for a first-time offence and ₹1,000 for repeat violations.

Defective plates

According to data accessed by *The Hindu*, 1,55,907 cases were booked between April 1, 2015, and June 30, 2025 for defective number plates, leading to collection of ₹4,52,59,900 in fines.

Officials emphasised that only numerals and series letters are permitted on registration plates.

"Designations such as 'President', 'Secretary' or any other tags must not appear," the official added.

While the department has been claiming that enforcement is being carried out, citizens remain sceptical.

Dedicated WhatsApp helpline – 9449863459 – has been launched to help people report offenders

Lokesh Kumar, a resident of Basaveshwarnagar, said, "If ordinary people break the rules, we are made to pay fines. But many celebrities, actors, officials and even politicians have fancy plates with unique fonts on luxury cars? Are they ever penalised?"

Report illegal plates

Karthik Prasad from J.P. Nagar said that the department's action is insufficient compared to the scale of violations. "The numbers seem very low considering how many vehicles carry unauthorised plates and logos. Such vehicles are visible across the city.

Both the Transport Department and the traffic police must intensify checks," he said.

In response to these concerns, officials pointed out that a dedicated WhatsApp helpline – 9449863459 – has been launched to help people report offenders.

Action to be taken

"People can click a photograph of the vehicle, note the location, and send it through WhatsApp. Action will be taken according to the law," an official said.

Crackdown on unauthorised emblems and plates in Karnataka

- Period of enforcement (unauthorised govt. emblems, names, etc.): December 28, 2019 to July 31, 2025
- Cases booked (govt. emblem/logo misuse): 14,982 vehicles penalised
- Fines collected: ₹1,20,61,097
- Period of enforcement (Defective number plates): April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2025
- Cases booked (Defective plates): 1,55,907
- Fines collected (Defective plates): ₹4,52,59,900

How citizens can report violations
WhatsApp helpline: 9449863459
Citizens can send photos, location and details to report offenders

Source: Transport Department

BWSSB revises water tariff and sanitary charges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), which hiked water tariff and sanitary charges across the board in the city in April, 2025, has again revised the tariff for bulk users (apartments) and sanitary charges for Paying Guest (PG) accommodations on September 1, 2025, which will effectively reduce the hike from the levels in April.

Following the April's water tariff hike, several apartment owners and Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) pointed out that the water tariff was based on the consumption only without taking into consideration the number of flats.

Arguing that "water consumption in case of lesser flats will be lower when compared to those apartments with higher number of flats," the BAF had appealed to revise the tariff based on the number of flats and by considering the minimum water consumption per flat, which the BWSSB has done.

The water tariff will now range from ₹25 a kilolitre to ₹55 a kilolitre based not on only on consumption but also on the number of flats in an apartment.

"This will ensure smaller apartments need not end up paying a higher tariff, like before. A majority of the apartments will benefit from this," said Arun Kumar from BAF.

Meanwhile, sanitary charges for PG accommodations were hiked from ₹1000 to ₹2000 range before April, to the range of ₹5,000 to ₹7500 in April. It has now been revised to ₹2000 to ₹3000, depending on the number of rooms in the facility.

Crackdown against overstaying foreigners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of a special drive launched against overstaying foreigners and landlords who are illegaly providing them with places on rent, the North Division Police alone have registered as many as 23 cases since January this year.

As per rules, landlords, before renting out their premises to foreign nationals, have to submit an application to the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and the jurisdictional police, along with copies of their tenant's passport and visa.

According to a report, hundreds of foreign nationals are living in the city even after the expiry of their visa, and efforts are on to track them down. However, many landlords are either unaware of this rule or do not follow the same. Police are now booking cases against such landlords under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939.

Man clubbed to death by younger brothers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man was allegedly clubbed to death by two of his younger brothers over sharing the pension amount of their mother at Melya village under Gouribidanur Police Station limits on Thursday.

The victim has been identified as Narasimhamurthy, 45. The sibling trio used to pick fights with each other every month to get a share of the pension. On Thursday, the accused had a heated argument with Narasimhamurthy, objecting to the bigger share he was getting.

In the melee, Rama, 39, and Gangadharappa, 37, ganged up and attacked Narasimhamuthy, the police said.

The police arrested Rama and Gangadharappa were arrested on charges of murder.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर

क्रमांक: 8968 दिनांक: 29.08.2025

निविदा संशोधन सूचना–2
(निविदा सूचना संख्या 14/2025–26)
NIB Code No.PWD2526A2311

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 14/2025–26 दिनांक 29.07.2025 में क्रम संख्या 1 से 3 पर वर्णित कार्यो की ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रस्तुत किये जाने की दिनांक 08.09.2025 सायं 5.00 बजे तक अपरिहार्य कारणों से बढाई जाती है एवं तकनीकी निविदा 08.09.2025 को सायं 6.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

वित्त विभाग राजस्थान सरकार के द्वारा जारी परिपत्र क्रमांक एफ.8(6)एफडी/एसपीएफसी/परिपत्र/2023 दिनांक 15.07.2025 के अनुसरण में बोलीदाताओं द्वारा ई–निविदाओं के प्रेषण के लिए बिड सिक्योरिटी राशि राजस्थान लोक उपापन में पारदर्शिता नियम, 2013 के नियम 42 के उप–नियम (6) में वर्णित माध्यमों में से किसी भी माध्यम से जमा करायी जा सकती है एवं नोटिफिकेशन क्रमांक एफ.2(3)/एफडी/एफआर/एसपीएफसी/2025 दिनांक 28.08.2025 में वर्णित प्रावधानों के अनुसार परफोरमेन्स सिक्योरिटी राशि को लौटाने की शर्ते लागू होगी।

1. PWD2526WLO808483	2. PWD2526WLO808486	3. PWD2526WLO808490

निविदा में वर्णित अन्य सभी शर्ते यथावत रहेगी।

(एन.सी. शर्मा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

DIPR/C/12862/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr. K. Kumar** intended to purchase the below mentioned Item No.1and 2 below mentioned herein.

Item No. I : Residential Site 29 bearing Present **BBMP E – Katha PID No.7477654017, formed out of Sy.No. 53, measuring East to West 55 Feet and North to South 38 Feet, totally measuring 2090 Sq. Feet,** Situated at **Babusabarapalya, Chelkere** Village, K.R. Puram, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, along with the building constructed measuring 1834.998 Sq. Feet or 170.4770 Sq. Mtr and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.28, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.30; **South by:** Private Property.

Item No. II : Residential Site 18 bearing Present **BBMP E – Katha PID No. 5218058247, formed out of Sy. No.119/3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 51 Feet, totally measuring 2040 Sq.Feet,** Situated at **Hormavu Agara** Village, K.R. Puram, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No.19, **West by:** Site No.17, **North by :** 30 Feet Wide Road, **South by:** Private Property.

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence **within 7 days** from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. It shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY, Advocate
SNN Associates,
No. 248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main, 1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043, Land Mark – Near Horamavu Signal, Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM. **M – 9945159840**

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR-CUM-DIRECTOR STATE TRANSPORT, PUNBUS, PUNJAB.
(JEEVANDEEP BUILDING SECTOR 17-A CHANDIGARH PH:0172-2704606)

No.773/ITASSISTANT- 1/PUNBUS Date:05-09-2025

E-NOTICE INVITING BID

Punjab State Bus Stand Management Company (PUNBUS) online e-tender is invited from the established, reputed and experienced bidders in two bid system (Technical & Commercial) for "Selection of Bidder for Passenger Information System (PIS) and Audio-Visual Announcement System along with audio visual advertisement sole rights through the system inside the bus stands at Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Moga, Shiri Mukatsar Sahib, SBS Nagar, Tarn Taran, Nangal, Shiri Anandpur Sahib, Jagraon, Zira, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Rupnagar, Derababa Nanak, Majitha and Mukerian on Build, Installation, Operation and maintenance Model". Please contact helpdesk No 0172-2704606

1. Last date of downloading/uploading (submission) of documents :29-09-2025 at 02:00 PM
2. Website: **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
3. Payment mode : Online through NEFT/RTGS/IPG/Net Banking
4. Pre-bid meeting : 12-09-2025 at 11:30 AM in the office of MD, PUNBUS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening: 29-09-2025 at 04:00 PM
6. Last date and time of queries: 16-9-2025 at 03:00 PM IST **(email id:editpunbus@gmail.com)**

For participating in the above e-tender, the Bidder shall have to get themselves registered with **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in** and get ID & password. Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process.

1746/12/2025-26/2875 MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUNBUS

Govt. of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Combined Entrance Competitive Examination Board
Science & Technology Campus, Sirkha Toli, Namkum-Tupudana Road, Namkum, Ranchi – 834010
Website : https://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in
e-mail : jceceboard@gmail.com

Advt. No. :–JCECEB/22/25-79, Ranchi/Dated: 05/09/2025

Important Indicative information regarding online application form for preparation of All India Merit List based on NEET(MDS) -2025 Result and conduct of Special Round of online counselling for admission to MDS Courses in Vananchal Dental College and Hospital under Babu Dinesh Singh University, Garhwa

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

In compliance of direction issued by Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department Govt. of Jharkhand regarding All India Quota MDS Vacant Seats of Vananchal Dental College and Hospital, Farhathiya, Garhwa under Babu Dinesh Singh University, Garhwa vide Letter No.-190 (8) dated-14.08.2025, online applications are invited for Special Vacancy Round of Online Counselling from 06.09.2025 to 07.09.2025 (Upto 04.00 PM). The Detailed information in this regard is uploaded under "Important Notice" column at **Board's website http://jceceb.jharkhand.gov.in**.

By the order of Controller of Examination,
Sd/-
(Ranjeeta Hembrom, J.A.S.)
Dy. Controller of Examination

PR no. 361174

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ
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ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.vijayapuradudc.mrc.gov.in

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಜಿನಕೋ–5/ಅ.ನ.ಹಂ–4/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.09.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಅಮೃತ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ ಹಂತ–4 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾದ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW–1 ರಿಂದ 4 ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ

1) ಮನಗೂಳಿ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47174/CALL-2

2) ಬಸವನ ಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47145/CALL-2

3) ಬಸವನ ಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47122/CALL-2

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಲಸದ ಕುರಿತು ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾ.ಅ/ಸ.ಕಾ.ಅ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11–09–2025 ರಂದು 17.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–09–2025 ರಂದು 17.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.

3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ (ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–09–2025 ರಂದು 11.00 ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ

ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವದು. ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ,
ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/311/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, RIYA Piyush Sampat, d/o Piyush Sampat, r/o : No 201, Mathapathi Maridian, 6th CRS, 5th MN Rd, Malleshpalya, Kaggadaspura, Blr – 560075 Have changed my name as Riya Sampat. Vide affidavit on 04/09/25.

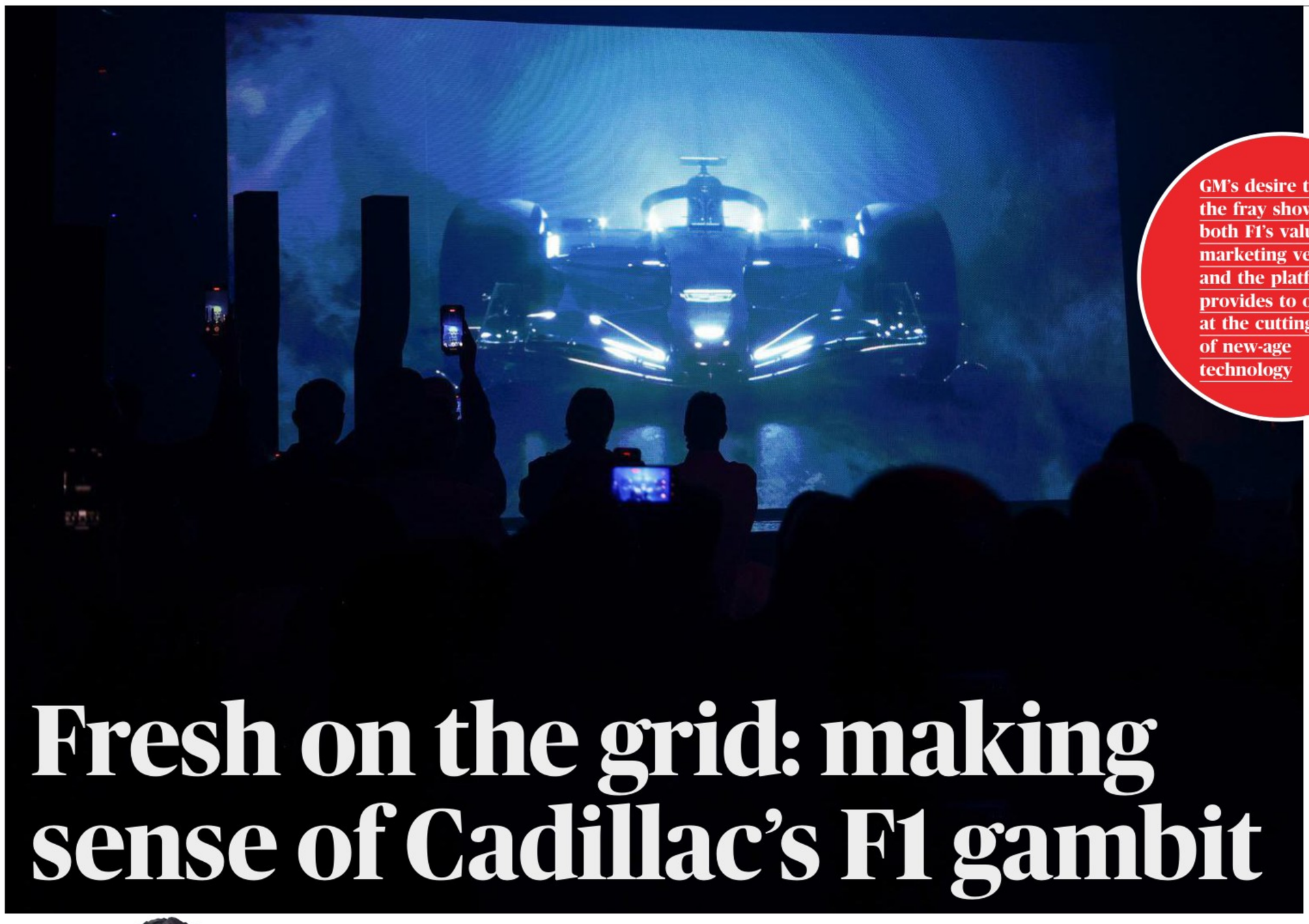
I, YAGANA KHAN D /o Mohmmed Zahid Khan W/o Prateek Khandelwal R/O F–602 Mantri Lithos Manyta Tech Park Thanisandra Nagavara Nagawara Bengaluru Karnataka–560045 changed my name to YAGANA PRATEEK KHANDELWAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT my Client intends to purchase residential Villa No. C5, Hyde Parkk, Whitefield, K.R. Puram, Whitefield, Bengaluru – 560066 (PID No.: 1958231935) in Property No. 27/3 out of Khatha No. 434/62, having Built-Up area of approx. 2685 Sq. ft., constructed on the portion of land measuring 2357 Sq. ft, carved out of land in Sy. No 10/2 (old Sy No. 10/1), known as Plot No 27/3, bearing EKhata No. 434/62/27/3 forming a portion of "HYDE PARKK", situated at Whitefield, Bangalore East Taluk ("Property"), from its owner, Srinivas Palepu, aged about 60 years, residing at the Property. Any entity/person having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, demand, or interest etc. with respect to the Property or having any objection to the same should inform the undersigned at the address mentioned hereinbelow in writing within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no adverse right, title, interest, share, claim, or demand of any nature whatsoever exists in or upon or in respect of the Property.

Sd/-
Abhirup Paul Bangara, Advocate
Regus UB City, Level 15, Concord Tower1, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru – 560001.
Mob: 9986011501
Email: abhirup@bangara.org



Fresh on the grid: making sense of Cadillac's F1 gambit

GETTY IMAGES

American giant General Motors enters the sport next season at considerable risk and significant cost. Its line-up of Bottas and Perez shows serious intent, but starting from scratch is one of the hardest tasks in F1. As the first new team in the budget-cap era, Cadillac's arrival could have far-reaching consequences for a sport that is growing ever more popular

S. Dipak Ragav

The Formula One bandwagon may have reassembled at last weekend's Dutch Grand Prix for the second half of the 2025 season, but the teams have switched their focus to 2026.

Next year, F1 will introduce revamped technical regulations, encompassing both the chassis (smaller cars, active aerodynamics) and engine (50% electric power units that will use sustainable, synthetic fuels). New rules regimes offer teams a fresh start and the opportunity to change the pecking order, so the emphasis on next season is no surprise.

Attracting interest

The 2026 regulations have also attracted new interest from some of the largest automotive brands – at a time when the world is transitioning to sustainable mobility and electrification of vehicles, aligning with a sport headed in that direction

The entry of a major American auto manufacturer is a significant boost for F1, which has always wanted to crack the US market

offers considerable advantages.

Audi will make its Formula 1 debut, with Sauber morphing into the Audi works operation. Honda, which changed its mind after deciding to exit F1 in 2021, will partner with Aston Martin as its works engine supplier. Similarly, Ford will join Red Bull, which is building its own powertrains for the first time.

While these names bolster the existing line-up, 2026 will see the arrival of an 11th team, as General Motors prepares to enter the sport through its iconic Cadillac brand with customer Ferrari engines for the first three years.

The entry of a major American auto manufacturer is a significant boost for the sport, which has always wanted to crack the US market. Since Liberty Media acquired F1, the premier single-seater racing series has seen its popularity grow in the world's largest economy.

The 'Drive to Survive' docu-series provided the initial boost, and the country now has three races on the calendar. Recently, the F1 movie, co-produced by Lewis Hamilton and starring Hollywood mega-star Brad Pitt, struck gold at the box office worldwide, further illustrating the growth the sport has witnessed.

GM, an iconic American brand, joining F1 is a step in that direction. It showcases both the sport's value as a marketing vehicle and the platform it provides to operate at the cutting edge of new-age technology.

The start, though, was far from smooth. Initially, Cadillac and Andretti Global's entry was accepted by the FIA when it opened an expression of interest for an 11th F1 team. But Liberty Media turned down GM's application, arguing that the new team might not bring value. The teams, too, were not too keen on a new outfit because their share of the prize pot would dip. They were not sure if the benefit of Cadillac's presence would outweigh the shortfall.

After lengthy negotiations between F1 and GM, Cadillac's entry was approved once it announced it would build its own engines from 2029. Andretti boss Michael Andretti's combative approach, which ruffled the feathers of Liberty bosses, did not help, and it needed TWG Global taking over Andretti's role in the proposed partnership for the move to be greenlit. GM will also pay an anti-dilution fee of $450 million, which will be divided among the existing teams.

In for the long haul

Having overcome the initial hiccups, Cadillac recently announced that Grand Prix winners Valtteri Bottas and Sergio Perez, both sidelined this year, will form its driver lineup in its inaugural season. The decision suggests that the team is serious about going racing.

GM's desire to enter the fray showcases both F1's value as a marketing vehicle and the platform it provides to operate at the cutting edge of new-age technology

While the allure of an American driver would have generated more buzz and lined up more sponsors, the fact that the team has opted for experience shows it is in for the long haul.

The drivers, though, are just one small piece of the jigsaw, as Cadillac tries to accomplish one of the most challenging tasks in F1. Prominent manufacturers have entered F1 in the past, but have typically bought existing operations – this is the usual, more 'straightforward' route.

Starting from scratch, like Cadillac is attempting to do, is far more complex, even with some of the most experienced technical minds. The team needs to get everything right, ranging from manufacturing and suppliers to race teams and other systems outside the factory for its R&D. These are not things that can be achieved overnight. Even some of the biggest teams, which have been in the sport for decades, struggle to be competitive every year.

It is why there haven't been many new entrants. In fact, over the last decade, there has been only one new team: Haas, which made its debut in 2016. Haas, another American-owned squad, works on a different model, however. It buys as many parts from Ferrari as is allowed in the rules and does the bare minimum needed to qualify as a constructor.

Before Haas, you have to go all the way back to 2010 for an instance of a new start-up operation in F1. Three teams – Lotus, Virgin and HRT – joined under the promise of a $40 million budget cap proposed by then FIA president Max Mosley. However, the big teams killed the budget cap idea. The new entrants lacked the financial muscle to challenge the entrenched incumbents and folded without making a lasting impression.

Fortunately, GM is now coming into the sport in a far more sensible operating environment where there is a strict budget cap and everyone has a fair shot at winning. This has made the sport profitable, and F1 teams are increasingly desirable assets that appreciate in value every year.

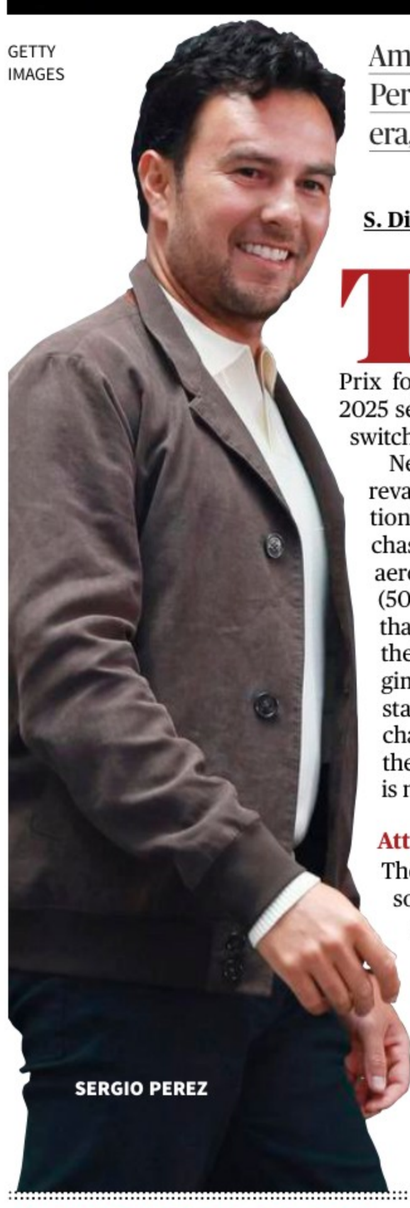
For Cadillac, the first target will not be lofty goals like podiums or wins, but respectability, even if it is at the back-end of the grid. The best-case scenario will be to fight in the midfield and become a regular points contender.

The fact that everyone starts with a clean slate can be a blessing for Cadillac. At the same time, the knowledge base the teams have built over the years is invaluable, and the continuity in operations is worth its weight in gold. Cadillac's focus will be on accumulating its knowledge of the processes required to compete at the pinnacle of single-seater racing before aiming higher.

Defining moment

As the first new team in the budget-cap era, Cadillac's progress could define the sport's medium-term future. For all that is said and done, F1 remains by far the most prestigious motorsport category in the world, spanning five continents, and success here brings rich rewards off the track.

If the GM operation can demonstrate that it can be competitive, it could incentivise more manufacturers and brands to enter the sport. This will ultimately improve F1's health, raising its global profile and ensuring all the stakeholders benefit.


SERGIO PEREZ

VALTTERI BOTTAS

GAME THEORY

Small margins: F1's closest title races

Although Oscar Piastri gained a substantial advantage over Lando Norris last weekend, the 2025 Formula One drivers' championship could still be headed for a tight finish. We look at the smallest points differences in the sport's history:

NIKI LAUDA

MIKE HAWTHORN

PHIL HILL

JOHN SURTEES

JAMES HUNT

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Points difference
1984	Niki Lauda	Alain Prost	0.5
1958	Mike Hawthorn	Stirling Moss	1
1961	Phil Hill	Wolfgang von Trips	1
1964	John Surtees	Graham Hill	1
1976	James Hunt	Niki Lauda	1
1981	Nelson Piquet	Carlos Reutemann	1
1994	Michael Schumacher	Damon Hill	1
2007	Kimi Raikkonen	Lewis Hamilton	1
2008	Lewis Hamilton	Felipe Massa	1
1983	Nelson Piquet	Alain Prost	2
1986	Alain Prost	Nigel Mansell	2
1999	Mika Hakkinen	Eddie Irvine	2
2003	Michael Schumacher	Kimi Raikkonen	2
1950	Giuseppe Farina	Juan Manuel Fangio	3
1956	Juan Manuel Fangio	Stirling Moss	3
1974	Emerson Fittipaldi	Clay Regazzoni	3
1988	Ayrton Senna	Alain Prost	3
2012	Sebastian Vettel	Fernando Alonso	3
1959	Jack Brabham	Tony Brooks	4
1979	Jody Scheckter	Gilles Villeneuve	4
2010	Sebastian Vettel	Fernando Alonso	4

SOURCE: F1

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Ace of clubs

China's Wang Zilu shows what she can do with the clubs during qualification in the recent Rhythmic Gymnastics World Championships in Rio de Janeiro. It was the first time the event was held in South America.

Rhythmic gymnastics combines facets of gymnastics, callisthenics and dance, with competitors performing on a floor with an apparatus, accompanied by music.

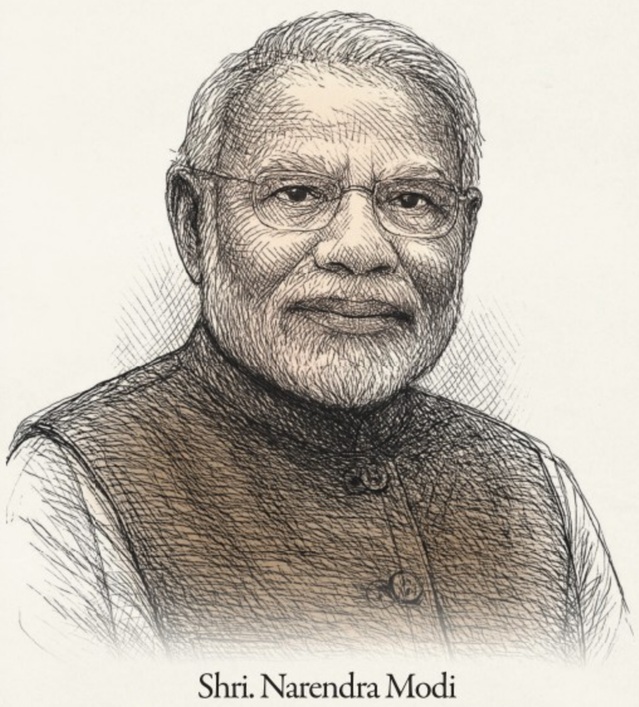
The clubs are one of five things a gymnast can work with; the others are a hoop, a ball, a rope, and a ribbon.

The discipline demands strength, flexibility and agility but also imagination, coordination between body and apparatus, and synchronicity with music.

Gymnasts are judged on the artistry of the performance, the difficulty level and the execution. They perform leaps, balances and rotations while handling the apparatus.

At the international level, only women compete in rhythmic gymnastics, which became an Olympic sport (individual all-around) at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

Reigning all-around World champion Darja Varfolomeev defended her title in Rio, winning five gold medals at the event.



Shri. Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

From the bottom of our hearts to the heads of our nation.

Thank you.

On behalf of the crores of farmers and consumers associated with Hatsun Agro Product Ltd., India's largest private dairy company, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Finance Minister and the GST Council for reducing the GST for dairy products.

This thoughtful decision benefits about 20% of the world's population, comprising Indian families and farmers. It also enables customers to get more value for the money they spend, leading to greater savings, better businesses and a more robust economy. At a time when the entire industry was expecting rain, we got a cloud burst! Uniform taxes without differentiating branded and unbranded products with the same slab at low taxes will also discourage adulterators and manipulators alike, fostering a spirit of honesty and transparency.

This would be the perfect time to look back at one of the most inspiring quotes of all time: Neil Armstrong's immortal words, *"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind"*. In much the same way, a small step like this from our leaders can create tremendous transformation in the country, creating a flourishing economy built on innovation, trust and opportunity.

Hatsun Agro Product Limited
Largest Corporate Dairy of India

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Bruhat, Vishala and many more: Writers offer alternatives to 'Greater'

The use of the word 'Greater' while naming the newly formed civic entity invited opposition, prompting the Dy. CM to call for suggestions for Kannada alternatives to replace the English word

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada writers and thinkers debated the importance of giving the authority a Kannada name and shared their suggestions. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Karnataka government faced backlash from the Opposition and sparked a social media debate for using the English word "Greater", instead of a Kannada word while christening the newly formed civic entity, Greater Bengaluru Authority.

The uproar prompted Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to invite suggestions for Kannada alternatives to replace "Greater."

In this context, Kannada writers and thinkers debated the importance of giving the authority a Kannada name and shared their suggestions. While many felt it was best to retain "Bruhat", a few argued that "Greater" also sounded appealing and easier to pronounce.

Writer G. Ramakrishna stressed that the word "Greater" does not evoke the same emotional resonance as a Kannada word and suggested using "Vistritha" or "Vishala."

"When you utter a word, its essence is felt within, that is the beauty of language. When naming something significant to our State, the name must carry the soul of our language," he said, adding that "Greater" does not sound as pleasant as Kannada words.

Banjagere Jayaprakash argued that there is no shortage of Kannada words, so there is no need to rely on an English word, suggesting "Mahaan" instead.

"I agree that our language has widened by absorbing words from others, like Tahsildar from Farsi. But in this case, since the authority is central to Bengaluru and will be referred to daily, it should have a Kannada name," he said, insisting that the language offers ample alternatives.

Vasundhara Bhupathi highlighted that Bengaluru is visited daily by foreigners and people from across the country, who would naturally pick up Kannada words if such institutions carried native names.

"If you don't name it in Kannada, you deny people from outside the opportunity to experience and learn from our language," she argued, suggesting "Unnata", "Mahonnata", and "Hiridaada" as possible choices.

K. Marulasiddappa emphasised that "Bruhat" itself is simple, familiar, and widely used, and therefore should be retained. "The name must certainly be in Kannada since it represents our State. Everyone knows Bruhat, so it is the most suitable option," he said. In contrast, Kum. Veerabhadrappa said using "Greater" was acceptable, it should be ensured that it was written in Kannada on signboards. "We have adopted many words from other languages, which have only enriched Kannada. It is also a matter of convenience," he pointed out, citing how words like police and engineer are more commonly used than their Kannada equivalents "Aarakshaka" and "Abhyantararu".

S.G. Siddaramaiah supported Veerabhadrappa, noting that Bruhat, though a Sanskrit word, has Indo-European roots, making it no different from Greater. "These words are used daily, so let them remain convenient," he said.

However, countering this, Mr. Ramakrishna argued that words like police and engineer are used simply out of habit, and had Kannada terms been taught from the beginning, they would have been preferred.

Despite differing views, most agreed that Bruhat remains the most suitable word and should continue to be used for the newly formed authority.

Commissioners of newly formed city corporations carry out inspections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commissioners of Bengaluru's newly formed city corporations conducted early morning field inspections across their respective corporations on Friday, while the Central City Corporation Commissioner chaired a review meeting with senior officials.

Bengaluru North City Corporation Commissioner Pommula Sunil Kumar began the inspection at 6 a.m., visiting the auto tipper mustering point in Yelahanka Satellite Ward and the pourakarmika mustering point at Thindlu.

He instructed auto tippers and pourakarmikas to report to duty on time and said that attendance should be strictly recorded. He instructed officials to maintain cleanliness along the drains, repair damaged footpaths, and take strict action against bulk waste violators. He further directed shopkeepers to maintain cleanliness outside their premises or face fines.

Cleanliness drives

In Jayanagar Ward, South City Corporation Commissioner K.N. Ramesh reviewed mustering points and black spots. He instructed officials to conduct mass cleanliness drives, repair damaged slabs on footpaths, and ensure sanitation near Jayanagar Shopping Complex. He also interacted with residents, assuring swift redressal of civic concerns.

Bengaluru West Commissioner, Rajendra K.V., inspected areas, including Havanur Circle, Basaveshwaranagar, and Rajajinagar ward. He stressed the upkeep of mustering points, ordered mosquito control measures at Netaji Subhash Chandra Park, and directed quality checks at Indira Canteens. He flagged dangling optical fibre cables as a pedestrian hazard, instructed compliance checks before issuing trade licences, and emphasised desilting of stormwater drains.

East Zone Commissioner Ramesh D.S. carried out an inspection from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

He reviewed stormwater drain works near Iblur Junction, Wipro, Sunny Brooks, and Balagere, urging speedy completion. He directed land acquisition for road widening projects on Doddakannahalli Road and the Sarjapur-Varthur State Highway. At Varthur Kodi Bridge and Panathur, he inspected ongoing drainage and road works, stressing on early completion to prevent flooding.

Central Zone Review

Meanwhile, Central City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra Cholan chaired a review meeting with officials from the revenue, health, works, finance, and electrical departments.

He called for increased property tax collection, elimination of garbage black spots, pothole repairs, better streetlight maintenance, and stronger sanitation measures. He urged officials to work proactively and fulfill their responsibilities.

BSWML launches 'Track Duty' platform to ensure timely mustering

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has developed a new digital platform called "Track Duty" to monitor officials visiting the field daily and to ensure timely mustering.

The initiative follows efforts to improve the attendance of waste collection auto tippers, which had been hovering between 75% and 85% in recent months, leading to the creation of new black spots across the city.

According to BSWML sources, in the absence of a mechanism to enforce punctual mustering, many waste collection vehicles were not punctual and were beginning their work at irregular hours.

To address this, the new Chief Executive Officer, Karee Gowda, advanced the mustering time from 6.30 a.m. to 5.30 a.m. and directed officials to share their live location in a common WhatsApp group, as a temporary measure to ensure field presence before the launch of a unified platform.

The Track Duty system has now been developed to streamline this monitoring process. Over the past 15 days, the BSWML officials have been regularly attending the mustering process under strict instructions from the CEO, said the BSWML. On Friday, Mr. Gowda announced that due to daily visits by officials to mustering centres, the attendance of auto tippers has now risen to 95%.

"There are approximately 200 mustering centres across the city, and senior officials are personally visiting these centres every morning to inspect attendance. Auto tipper drivers are also being instructed to ensure door-to-door collection and the segregation of wet and dry waste," the BSWML said in a statement.

Zero-waste trial shows how festival waste can be managed sustainably

Priyanka Vaadulasha
BENGALURU

Over 400 kg of flower waste was processed and 50 kg of dry waste was sorted. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On August 30, following Ganesha idol immersions, a waste management trial at K.G. Tower Park turned into a small but significant success story.

In a joint effort by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Solid Waste Management, the Horticulture Department, Zero Waste Collective-Malleswaram (ZWC-M), and residents, over a tonne of festival waste was sorted and processed on-site.

"NGOs and volunteers were involved in segregating the festival waste into three major sections of wet, dry, and food categories," said Gautham, supervisor, BBMP Ward 35.

About 25 marshals were stationed to manage the crowd, and 11 volunteers were appointed to segregate waste at the Sankey Tank Kalyani. Raghuram, junior health inspector, BBMP, said, "Day 1 and Day 3 recorded the highest Ganesha idol immersions at the Sankey Tank with flower waste alone accounting for over a tonne. While the residents were asked to hand over the idols 500 metres away from the water, marshals were situated to take forward the Ganeshas and handle the waste." Drums were placed at almost 10 to 12 locations within the perimeter, and tipper vehicles carried away the waste to sheds at the nearby parks, said Mr. Raghuram.

"When the BBMP approached us to provide space for segregation, we were more than happy to help. Thus, the parks in proximity, like the K.G. Tower Park, Sankey Tank Park, and Low-level Park were dedicated to process the waste," said Ravi B.B., Assistant Horticulture Officer, West Zone.

Mr. Ravi said the Horticulture Department team contributed to cleaning the Kalyani every day between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. after the previous night's immersion, and geared up for the next day.

Aparna Desraj Urs, a member of ZWC-M, said, "After the waste was directed to the sheds, the team carried out a segregation process to eliminate materials such as blouse pieces to be later made into bags."

The flower waste was then moved to a 7.5 HP chopper machine provided by the BBMP. The waste was minced and separated into five different compost waste bins. "We processed over 400 kg of flower waste and sorted over 50 kg of dry waste, and this attempt was a huge success," said Ms. Urs.

Residents' groups urge govt. to enforce ban on firecrackers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents' groups in Bengaluru have urged the State government to enforce the Supreme Court's 2018 order restricting the manufacture, sale, and use of firecrackers.

In a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, multiple civic groups have urged for this following a recent mishap during Ganesha festivities that left two dead and several others injured in Doddaballapur. Citizens also recalled last year's Attibele tragedy, where 17 people were killed in a firecracker godown explosion, to stress the urgent need for preventive action.

"If crackers produce noise, it is a clear indicator that they are non-green crackers. People should call 112 when they see crackers going off between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm," said Harini Raghavan, a member at Public Health Community Initiative.

The Supreme Court ruling of October 23, 2018, places responsibility on Police Station House Officers, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, fire and safety departments, and transport authorities to check illegal manufacturing, interstate movement, and sale, she continued.

Priya Chetty Rajagopal of The Compassionate City remarked, "The Pollution Control Board has successfully tested green crackers, but public awareness of SC rules and clear labelling of approved manufacturers is needed to guide consumers. Strong penalties, swift police response, and civic responsibility from citizens are seen as essential to ensuring a safe, lawful festive season."

As Deepavali approaches, campaigners say only a coordinated effort—backed by political will, strict enforcement, and citizen participation—can prevent a repeat of past tragedies.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 09/2025-26 Dated : 04-09-2025

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for 05 No. of works Amounting from Rs. 7410.35 Lakhs to Rs. 2930.20 Lakhs and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase and /or develop the properties described in the Schedule hereunder from the owner/s. Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions (corporate or otherwise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Properties and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, agreement, exchange, gift, grant, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/ settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order/decree/judgment of any Court/Statutory Authority, agreement, understanding or otherwise howsoever, to the Schedule Properties is required to intimate the same in writing together with true copies of all documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, within **Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed ahead to purchase the Schedule Properties and no further claims in respect of the Schedule Properties would be considered any time thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the below detailed land parcels, situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and bounded by :

Sl. No.	Sy. Nos	Land Area	Boundaries (East : E, West : W, North : N, South : S)	Owners Name
1.	11/1	10 Guntas	E: Land bearing Survey No. 10; W: Land bearing Survey No.11/2; N: Land bearing Survey No. 6; and S: Land bearing Survey No.12.	Mr. B. M.Srinivas S/o. B. M. Munnivenkataramaiah
2.	11/2	01 Acre 06 Guntas including (02 Guntas of B Kharab)	E: Land bearing Survey No.11/1; W: Land bearing Survey No. 19 & 20; N: Land bearing Survey No. 06; and S: Land bearing Survey No. 12 & 13.	Mr. B.M.Govindaraju S/o. Late. P. Munniyappa
3.	11/3	06 Guntas	E: Land bearing Survey No. 11/2; W: Land bearing Survey No. 10; N: Land bearing Survey No. 11/1; & S: Land bearing Survey No. 12.	Mrs. Shanthamma W/o. B. M. Munnivenkataramaiah
4.	11/4	06 Guntas	E: Land bearing Survey No. 11/2; W: Land bearing Survey No. 10; N: Land bearing Survey No. 11/3; & S: Land bearing Survey No. 12.	Ms. Radhamma D/o. B. M. Munniventaramaiah
5.	24/3 (old Sy No. 24/1)	14 Guntas	E: Land bearing Survey No. 24/4; W: Land belonging to B.V. Rajanna; N: Land belonging to Ramakka & P. Munniyappa; and S: Land belonging to Chikkamunniyappa.	Mr. Mannith Kumar S/o. Late. Narayansawamy
6.	24/4 (old Sy No. 24/2)	15 Guntas	E: Land belonging to B.V.Shivakumar; W: Land bearing Survey No. 24/3 (old Sy No.24/1); N: Land belonging to Bhajantri Munniyappa; and S: Land belonging to Chikkamunniyappa.	Mr. Lalith Kumar S/o. Late. Narayanasawmy

FoxMandal Solicitors & Advocates

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner,
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road,
Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91 80 2559 5911
Dated: 06.09.2025

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Identification No. U74140DL1955GOI002481
Advt No.NSIC/HR/15/2025

The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (The premier Mini-Ratna Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) invites applications from Professionals with suitable domain expertise to be engaged on Contract basis at various grades.

For detailed Job Description, Terms & Conditions and Application Form, please visit Career Section of NSIC website **www.nsic.co.in**. The last date of receiving the applications is 15.09.2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its present owner **Mr. AJAY GUPTA** S. S. S/o. Late S. S. Meera Bai & Late S. V.Satyanarayana Gupta, w**ho has inherited the same from his mother Late S.S.Meera Bai and the BDA has executed a Absolute Sale Deed Dated 20-03-2025 in his name.**

Any perso n/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the **Schedule Property** may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the conveyance as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Vacant Residential BDA** Site bearing No.297 in **Sy No.59, 60,** Situated at **5th Block, Arkavathi Layout, K. Narayanapura Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, E-Khata No.BD007S250005970, PID No.6000082695, Bangalore** and bounded on the:

East by : Site No.298 **West by : Site No.296;**
North by : Site No.300 & Site No.299 **South by : Road.**
MEASURING:- East to West :15.00 Meters North to South : 24.00 Meters;
The Total Area of the Site is 360.00 Square Meters.

S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA Advocates
No.60, 2nd floor, M.M. Complex, Chinnaswamy Mudaliar Road,
Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051 Mob: **9845049766 / 9243132714**
Place: Bangalore: Dated: 06.09.2025

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Municipal Planning Authority, Challakere
Chitradurga (District) (Telephone & Fax No. 08195- 200094
E-mail : ka.challakere.cmc@gmail.com)

No: MPACLK/Tech/2025-26/LDF/CR 07/2025-26 Date: 04.09.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Member Secreatary, Municipal Planning Authority, Challakere invites tenders in Two cover system using KW-4 document from Class-II and above PWD contractors as detailed mentioned below: - Lake Development Fund (250.00 Lakhs)
Description of work:- Development of Rajakaluve from Sujimalleshwara Nagar to Katappanahatti in Challakere City.
INDENT No: PA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT1.
Estimated amount (Rs. in Lakhs):- 250.00
Amount Put to Tender (Rupees):- 2,08,01,257.00
EMD Amount (Rupees):- 3,12,019.00
Period (In month):- 11 Months
Class of Contractor:- Class-II & above PWD Contractor
Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from from the e-Procurement platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.
Calendar of Events:- **(1)** Last date and time for Tender Queries / Clarifications 25-09-2025 5.00 PM
(2) Last Date and time receipt to tenders 03-10-2025 5.00 PM
(3) Date and time for Opening of Technical Bid 04-10-2025 5.30 PM
(4) Date and time for Opening of Financial Bid After Technical Approval of Bid. Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

RO.No.329:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26
Sd/- Member Secreatary, Municipal Planning Authority, Challakere.

Two-member gang held for jewellery shop robbery

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused barged into Ram Jewellers, threatened the staff members at gunpoint and escaped with gold ornaments

After nearly a month of hot chase, the Madanyakanahalli police on Thursday arrested a two-member gang that was involved in the armed robbery of a jewellery shop on Machohalli Main Road on July 24.

The accused have been identified as Mohammed Iftekhar and Noushad. Two of their associates are on the run. Efforts are on to track them down.

Habitual offender

C.K. Baba, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District, said that Iftekhar is a notorious habitual offender from Purnia district of Bihar, and he ganged up with the three accused from Dakshina Kannada while serving time in the central prison of Parappana Agrahara.

"It was evident that this gang had come together in the prison," he said. The accused barged into Ram Jewellers, threatened the staff members at gunpoint, and escaped with gold ornaments. The police recovered 80 gm of gold valuables worth ₹10 lakh, two cars, and a fake gun from them.

While Iftekhar has around 16 cases pending against him, Naushad has six cases, Mr. Baba said. "The accused did not use mobile phones and used social media for communication, which delayed efforts to track them down," he said. The owner was preparing to shut the shop for the day when the masked robbers barged in, brandishing firearms and started looting the ornaments on the display table and escaped in a car.

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51-year-old woman and grandson electrocuted in Tumakuru district

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 51-year-old woman and her grandson were electrocuted in a ragi field at Chottahalli on the outskirts of Kunigal in Tumakuru district on Thursday.

The deceased have been identified as Latha and her 14-year-old grandson Mohith. According to the police, Latha was living with her husband Jagadisha, daughter Roopa, son-in-law Suresh, and only grandchild Mohith. Mohith was studying in eighth standard, and did not go to school on Thursday as he was unwell.

Latha, as part of her routine visit to the farm, took Mohit along as he was alone at home.

The duo reached the field and accidentally touched the fence which had came in contact with a snapped electric wire. The duo was electrocuted and died on the spot.

A case has been registered, and the police have launched a probe.

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ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಾದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಕೃಷ್ಣೆಯ ಜಲಧಿಗೆ ಗಂಗಾಪೂಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಗಿನ ಅರ್ಪಣೆ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.09.2025ನೇ ಶನಿವಾರ | ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ | ಸ್ಥಳ : ಲಾಲ್ ಬಹಾದ್ದೂರ್ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ಸಾಗರ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ, ನಿಡಗುಂದಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಎಸ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜವಳಿ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಚಿವರು ಮತ್ತು ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಡಾ. ಎಂ.ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಬೃಹತ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಗೌರವ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್.ಬಿ. ತಿಮ್ಮಾಪೂರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಬಕಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಮೇಲ್ದಂಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಎನ್ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಚೇತಕರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಬಿ. ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಶೇಷ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ-2, ನವದೆಹಲಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಅಪ್ಪಾಜಿ ಸಿ.ಎಸ್. ನಾಡಗೌಡ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾಬೂನು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಜಕ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ. ಚಂ. ಜಿಗಜಿಣಗಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ವಿಜಯಪುರ
ಡಾ|| ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಯಶವಂತರಾಯಗೌಡ ವಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಇಂಡಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸನಗೌಡ ಆರ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ (ಯತ್ನಾಳ) ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ನಗರ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಸುನೀಲಗೌಡ ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಠ್ಠಲ ಧೋಂಡಿಬಾ ಕಟಕಧೋಂಡ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ನಾಗಠಾಣ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಭೀಮನಗೌಡ (ರಾಜುಗೌಡ) ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ದೇವರಹಿಪ್ಪರಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಅಶೋಕ ಮ. ಮನಗೂಳಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಸಿಂಧಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಶವಪ್ರಸಾದ ಎಸ್. ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕಾಂತಾ ನಾಯ್ಕ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂಗಮೇಶ ಅಪ್ಪಾಸಿ ಬಬಲೇಶ್ವರ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಬಾಲವಿಕಾಸ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕವಿತಾ ಮು.ಬಡಿಗೇರ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ವೈ. ಮೇಟಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ.ಟಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬೀಳಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಹಟ್ಟಿ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಣಿ ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯಾನಂದ ಎಸ್.ಕಾಶಪ್ಪನವರ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಹುನಗುಂದ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿ.,
ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ಗದ್ದಿಗೌದರ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಕೆ. ಭಾಂಡಗೆ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ಶ್ರೀ ಹಣಮಂತ ಆರ್. ನಿರಾಣಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್
ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದು ಸವದಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ತೇರದಾಳ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್. ಪೂಜಾರ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್
ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ ಎಸ್. ಗುಡಗುಂಟಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಶ್ರೀ ಭೀಮಸೇನ ಬಿ. ಚಿಮ್ಮನಕಟ್ಟಿ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ
ಡಾ. ಉಮಾಶ್ರೀ ರವರು — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. — ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಬಿ. ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ, ಕೆ.ಇ.ಎಸ್. — ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಜ್ ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. — ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಬಸವರಾಜ್ ದಿ, ಐಇ — ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಲಯ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ

Turning homes into acoustic playgrounds

From buzzing restaurants to cosy homes, bringing sound design indoors

Lesley Simeon

What really is 'good sound'? Is it crystal-clear music, with no technical glitches? Is it the perfect filler to conversations with your loved ones? Or is it perhaps the aesthetic appeal of the speakers? For Harry Jones, sound experience engineer at audio-tech brand Sonos, it's all of them, and maybe even more. "Even good battery life contributes to a good sound experience. For example, on a beach, if the battery [of the speaker] runs out, a bad sound experience is actually no music at all," he laughs.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Jones talks all things sound – what really constitutes an optimal listening experience, how listeners can ensure great acoustics in their homes, and how Indian consumers are increasingly prioritising a premium listening experience.

Speaker as accessory

According to Jones, the best version of their creation that artists get to listen to is within the confines of a studio. Once outside, it never quite sounds the same. "Good sound should be as clear a window as possible into the original intent of the artist," he stresses. The effort to offer this window to listeners later on includes achieving a certain level of form factor as well, and this is where industrial designers step in. "Sure, a sound box might sound amazing. But if it's an ugly box, we might not even be listening to it!" says Jones.

Achieving pleasing form isn't just about aesthetics. It's fundamentally about the longevity of the products, especially with consumers seeing purchases of speakers and other audio products as an investment. "People might have these products in their homes for years. Having a form factor that is flexible and not intrusive is important. The more beautiful they look, the better they sound," he adds.

Jones points out how, historically, people seemed content listening to music on their phones or perhaps the radio. That practice has now evolved to them valuing good sound and even looking to replicate the complete listening experience they have at a musical event or even the cinemas, right in the comfort of their homes, courtesy of home theatre systems.

But in the battle between good equipment and good spaces, who scores brownie points when it comes to ensuring good sound? Jones says it's a level field between the two. "You could take the best speaker in the world and put it in the worst room, or take the worst speaker and put it in the best room, in both situations, it'll sound terrible."

Research suggests that jarring sound or music in eateries can affect our sense of taste. Does our listening experience also impact the way we unwind in our homes? "It's useful to understand the purpose of any given space. If it's an ambient space, like a coffee shop, you're catching up with friends there. You aren't going to be [actively] listening to music there. But in your living room, if you're watching a movie, you want a really good sound experience there," he elaborates.

Bringing the theatre home

Good positioning joins equipment and space in the sound experience trinity. "One of the best things you can do in your home to immediately improve the sound experience is better placement, especially with soundbars. You want the soundbar to be frontal to your listening position and the surrounds behind you. If you have a single sub, have that at the front. If you have two, place one at the front and one at the back for better low-end distribution in your room," explains Jones.

Speakers placed across different settings to create great acoustics at home and in restaurants.

Further, in order to ensure a great listening experience at home, one can simply use rugs or carpets to absorb the echo and improve the acoustics of a living space. Placing reflective materials on either side of the speaker or hanging some form of absorption, such as fabric tapestries, on the walls also helps. "With our Trueplay technology, we are looking to correct any frequency anomalies in the room. It works by listening to the music and self-correcting wherever it is placed. We offer these extensive solutions, as we are aware that speakers are not always going to be placed in the best position every time," he elaborates.

Similarly, placing different speakers in different spaces in a home can help create a passive but effective listening experience. "At Sonos, we've introduced a seamless multi-room control listening experience where everything is perfectly in sync," informs Jones.

The writer and theatre artist is based between Bengaluru and Delhi.

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CREDAI BENGALURU

Experts: Turn all farm and allied universities into integrated ones

The concept would reduce unwanted expenditure and duplication of resources, they say

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

In a step that could change the profile of universities in the farming sector, an expert committee led by former Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar has recommended that all the agricultural and allied universities in Karnataka be turned into integrated universities instead of the present system of being confined to either agriculture or horticulture.

The report was submitted by the committee comprising experts, including vice-chancellors, to the government of Karnataka on September 4.

The report was submitted by the committee comprising experts, including Vice-Chancellors, to the State government on September 4. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to sources, the committee has stressed on the need for doing away with the present system of a compartmentalised approach in agriculture. The committee is learnt to have observed that the present system of universities focusing only on agriculture or horticulture would not help farmers, as they would have to approach different universities for taking up integrated farming. Pointing out that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) too is thinking on the lines of having integrated universities, the committee observed that integrated universities would go a long way in promoting integrated farming method of cultivating multiple crops to ensure sustainable agriculture.

To begin with, the committee is learnt to have recommended that all the agricultural and horticultural universities include all aspects of agriculture and allied issues. In the first phase, it has left out the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) since it requires specialised infrastructure and manpower.

However, in the second phase, veterinary sciences should also become part of curriculum and operational area of all the universities in agriculture and allied sectors when they acquire the required capability and resources, the report states. Karnataka has seven universities in agricultural and allied sectors, including the KVAFSU.

The committee reportedly mapped the geographical area of the State to the six universities while not altering the functioning of KVAFSU.

The total extent of area under cultivation in each district has been taken into consideration while allotting different districts to the universities.

"The recommendation of having integrated universities does not affect the structure or functioning of any existing university," sources said while making it clear that there is no question of closing any university or taking away its powers.

The recommendation of having integrated universities had been arrived at after interacting with all the stakeholders, including farmers, academicians, students and experts, sources said.

The concept would reduce unwanted expenditure and duplication of resources, observed an expert.

Some reservations

However, the University of Horticultural Sciences-Bagalkot is learnt to have expressed reservations about the proposal. In the legislature session, some elected representatives from north Karnataka had demanded that this university's functioning should not be altered as it is a specialised university.

The concept of setting up specialised universities in agriculture and allied subjects gained momentum in Karnataka in the last two decades. However, several agricultural academicians including the late Dr. R. Dwarkinath had opposed the move on the grounds that it would not help the cause of integrated farming, which is the need of the hour.

It gained focus when the government recently carved out a separate University of Agricultural Sciences-Mandya from the UAS-B, resulting in formation of an expert committee to study the issue.

Septuagenarian Army veteran from Bengaluru completes Arctic expedition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mission accomplished: Lt. Col. (retd) O.P.N. Kalyan undertakes a polar plunge in the Arctic Ocean. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A 76-year-old former Indian Army officer from Bengaluru recently completed an expedition to the North Pole and the Arctic.

Lt. Col. O.P.N. Kalyan (retd) who had served in the Army Service Corps, undertook the expedition between August 22 and September 1, during which he also undertook a polar plunge in the Arctic Ocean.

"I always had an ambition to visit Antarctica and the Arctic during my service. After my retirement, I had the privilege to go on an expedition to Antarctica in 2024. Now I got an opportunity to go to the North Pole and Arctic Islands at the age of 76, and my ambition has been finally fulfilled," said Lt. Col. (retd) Kalyan. The Army veteran commenced the expedition from Longyearbyen in Norway on the ship, *Polar Quest*, along with a group of 48 people.

Extreme weather

"We were ferried on the Zodiac boats and visited Smeerenburg and Virgohamna Islands. The weather was extremely cold, windy, and the temperature was two degrees celsius. We also visited the Nordre Russoya islands where we saw a few glaciers, birds, and the arctic Foxes," he said, adding that during his 10-day cruise, the sun did not set.

He said that on August 30, the expedition ship stopped about two kilometres from the Glacier Island called Burgerbukta where he took the polar plunge. "The ocean temperature was minus two degrees celsius. Last year, I carried out the polar plunge in the Southern Sea in Antarctica, and now I did once more in the Arctic Ocean," he added.

After retirement from his service, Lt. Col. (retd) Kalyan served as the curator of the ASC Museum in Bengaluru for 15 years.

Four booked for assaulting BMTC driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kumaraswamy Layout police have registered a case against a group of four men who allegedly assaulted a bus driver attached to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) in a road rage incident at Kadarenahalli Cross on Thursday.

The driver, Hucchirappa, was heading towads Kadarenahalli Cross when four men on two motorcycles came from the opposite side in a wrong way and shouted at the driver. When Hucchirappa reacted to this, the four men got on to the bus, hurled abuses at him, dragged him out, and assaulted him.

The bus conductor Prakash alerted the control room, following which the accused fled the scene.

Abdul Ahad, Director, Vigilance, BMTC, went to the spot and admitted the driver to the hospital, before filing a case against the four men. BMTC Managing Director took cognisance of the incident and asked the officials to chalk out strategies to ensure necessary protection to the BMTC staff to prevent such incidents in future. The police have launched a probe to identify the accused. In a similar incident, the Banasawadi police have launched a search for a motorcyclist, who was armed with a knife, created ruckus on the busy road near Lingarajapuram flyover on Thursday. The accused was riding the two-wheeler and had an argument with an autorickshaw driver. He reportedly stopped the bike, pulled out a knife, and tried to attack the autorickshaw driver. Even though the driver escaped narrowly, the accused damaged the vehicle. A passer-by recorded the incident on his mobile phone which went viral on social media.

Two private college students from city drown in Cauvery

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Two students studying in a private college in Bengaluru, drowned in the Cauvery in Srirangapatna taluk on Friday.

They were identified as Shyam, 20, and Venkatesh, 20, who were part of a group of students from Bengaluru who were on a visit to Edamuri Falls.

Caught in whirlpool

Sources said Shyam and Venkatesh went into the river for a swim but were caught in the whirlpool and swept away.

Though friends and locals tried to rescue them, their efforts were in vain. The KRS Police have registered a case and investigating.

Celebrations

(Top) Muslims taking part in a religious procession on the occasion of Id-Milad at Tannery road, and (above) people celebrating Onam at HAL Ayyappan Temple, in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

RVIM hosts Fireside Chat with *The Hindu* Group

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

RV Institute of Management (RVIM) organised an engaging fireside chat titled "Navigating the Business Landscape: Campus to Corporate" with Sridhar Aranala, Vice-President, sales and distribution, The Hindu Group, on Thursday.

'5 whys'

Interacting with management students and faculty, Mr. Aranala emphasised ethics, trust, and integrity as the foundation for a successful career.

He highlighted the importance of introspection and introduced the "5 Whys" technique as a tool for clarity and deeper understanding in career decisions.

Drawing from his personal journey, he underlined resilience, adaptability, acceptance, and tolerance as essential traits for thriving in the corporate world.

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'Dharma Jagruti Samavesha' seeks legal action against those defaming Dharmasthala

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The 'Dharma Jagruti Samavesha', a convention of leaders of Hindu religious institutions and places of worship in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Kasaragod (Kerala) districts, held in Dharmasthala, on Friday, urged the government to take legal action against those who indulged in slander against the Manjunatheswara temple and its 'pattadhikari' D. Veerendra Heggade.

The samavesha noted that a national-level conspiracy has been hatched to defame Dharmasthala through a smear campaign using social media and visual media. The government should prevent such campaigns and take tough legal action against institutions and individuals indulging in and behind such campaigns.

The convention resolved that the government should take action against those who made defamatory statements over other Hindu religious places of worship in Karnataka and thus disturbed peace in society. Action should also be taken against those individuals and institutions which supported them.

The convention decided to extend the scope of Dharma Samrakshana Samithi to the State level, and counter the conspiracies and campaigns targetted against Hindu places of worship. It welcomed the formation of Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the Dharmasthala case.

Mr. Heggade said that the "truth" (in Dharmasthala case) is being unfolded now.

M. Mohan Alva, chairman, Alva's Education Foundation, Moodbidri; B.K. Dhananjaya Rao, advocate; Lakshminarayana Asranna, hereditary priest of Kateel Durgaparameshwari temple and Vidwan Hiranya Venkatesh Bhat, Talamadde 'arthadhari' spoke.

K. Prathapsimha Nayak, MLC, was present.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, SEP. 06	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:27
RISE 17:33	SET 04:36
SUNDAY, SEP. 07	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:26
RISE 18:15	SET 05:32
MONDAY, SEP. 08	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:26
RISE 18:56	SET 06:26

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	27	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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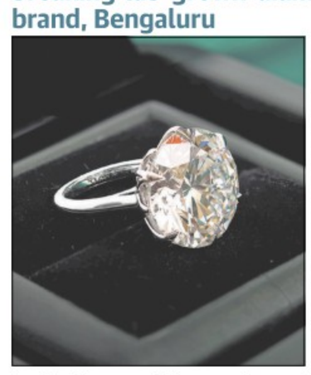
BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Bhima Unveils The Raas Leela Collection

BHIMA

An Ode To Divine Love Bhima, one of South India's most trusted names in fine jewellery, proudly presents its all new Raas Leela Collection -a stunning range of jewels crafted in gold, diamonds and gemstones that features Radha and Krishna. Every piece in this collection features intricate detailing, vibrant gemstones, and the finest Bhima artistry, echoing the grace and rhythm of the Raas Leela itself. The Raas Leela collection celebrates the divine love of Radha and Krishna and brings alive the spirit of their timeless bond which is set in the enchanted forest of Nidhivan, where every glance, every step, and every note of music becomes an expression of love. Crafted with radiant diamonds, gemstones and set in pure gold, every piece is a poetic narration of heritage, devotion, and timeless beauty. Intricate patterns, delicate carvings, masterful detailing that evoke the divine love of Radha and Krishna, transforming age-old traditions into jewels of everlasting magnificence. Each piece in this exquisite collection embodies the grace and passion of this divine love story, designed to resonate with the spirit of celebration and devotion. Ideal for both special occasions and everyday elegance, the Raas Leela Collection invites you to adorn yourself in art that tells a timeless tale. The collection is now available at all Bhima showrooms across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

C. Krishniah Chetty Group redefines luxury with "The Legacy Duo," featuring two record-breaking lab-grown diamonds from one iconic brand, Bengaluru



In a world where legacy is often inherited, crash. club by the C. Krishniah Chetty Group continues to prove that it can be forged, brilliantly. This month, the brand marked a historic milestone in global fine jewellery with the private sale of a 21.82 carat Round Brilliant lab-grown diamond, VVS2 clarity, F colour, the largest lab-grown diamond of its kind ever sold to a private client. This record-breaking moment follows the brand's own previous benchmark: a 20.06 carat Emerald Cut lab-grown diamond sold in June 2024. With this, crash.club becomes the only lab-grown jewellery brand to have broken this record not once, but twice.

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Caste census: Panel preps up with 60 questions to be posed to 7 crore people

There are some 1,800 castes listed and the socio-economic survey will begin on September 22

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With about 1,800 castes listed and around 60 survey questions, the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes will undertake the socio-economic survey of the nearly 7-crore population from September 22.

As a precursor, households are being mapped, and a handbook has been published. Training of master trainers and approximately 1.6 lakh teachers, who will double as enumerators in the house-to-house survey, is scheduled to begin next week. The Energy Department is expected to provide a complete list of geo-mapped households by September 15.

This is the second socio-educational survey being conducted by the commission, following the first one in 2015, which the H. Kantharaj Commission conducted. The 2015 commission report was submitted by K. Jayaprakash Hegde, and the survey had 53 questions. The number of castes/sub-castes in the 2015 survey were 1,351 which went up to 1,821 after decoding. "We discussed having around 70 questions in the beginning, which has been brought down to about 60. The handbook has been printed for use in training teachers and master trainers. Training of master trainers will commence from September 8 and that of the teachers on September 12," commission sources said. The objections received from the caste groups are being scrutinised by the members, and a decision will be taken soon.

Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission staff giving a caste census sticker to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his official residence, Cauvery, in Bengaluru on Friday.

Numbers to go up

While the commission published a list of 1,400 castes/sub-castes a fortnight ago and sought objections from the public, it is learnt that the commission has received several requests to include the names/synonyms of castes/sub-castes.

The commission had deliberately dropped the names of those castes that had less than 10 households from the published list of 1,400 castes, and a request had come to include them. "We are considering their requests. We expect the caste list to exceed just over 1,800 in the State at the start of the survey. We will also include the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the final list," said the source. Incidentally, a comprehensive survey of scheduled caste households has just been concluded by the one-man commission headed by retired Judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, which submitted recommendations on internal reservation for Scheduled Caste communities.

Within deadline?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There have been some concerns expressed over the lack of time for preparation for the survey and also about the completion of the door-to-door survey of 2 crore households in a fortnight. However, commission sources said, "Energy Department has already completed over 35% of the household list, and it has promised to provide the complete list of households by September 15. We are using advanced technologies to conduct the survey and monitor its functioning. If a household is left out of the survey, it can be identified using geo-tagging. We will complete the survey on schedule."

Siddaramaiah, DKS defend move to return to ballot paper; BJP slams it as 'most regressive decision by State govt.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the Karnataka Cabinet approved the reintroduction of the ballot papers in the upcoming local body elections, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Friday, defended his government's decision to push for the use of ballot papers, saying that there were instances of other countries switching back to the paper-ballot system from electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "We have decided in favour of the use of ballot papers based on our past experience."

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar too defended the Cabinet decision, saying, "The law very much gave the use of ballot papers as an option... Why is the BJP worried? It's provided in the law."

For local body polls

The Cabinet decided to recommend to the State Election Commission (SEC) that the local body polls be conducted with ballot papers, discarding the EVM system. The government's decision, Mr. Shivakumar said, followed a detailed analysis of the conduct of the last Lok Sabha polls, suggesting that they were riddled with malpractice. "The law, as amended by the earlier BJP regime, mentions 'either EVMs or paper ballots'," he said.

> The law very much gave the use of ballot papers as an option... Why is the BJP worried? It's provided in the law
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

> The govt. must recommend dissolution of Assembly and call for fresh polls because the Congress won 136 seats in the 2023 elections under EVM system.
>
> **S. SURESH KUMAR**
> MLA and former Minister

BJP's criticism

Meanwhile, BJP leaders, including Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and the party's State president, B.Y. Vijayendra, have criticised the move of the Congress government.

"This is the most regressive decision taken by a backward-looking and outdated government headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The government is taking the State back to the Stone Age," former Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and MLA for Rajajinagar, S. Suresh Kumar, told the reporters here. He addedd that by deciding to do away with the EVMs, the Congress has planned to do "vote theft" and also insulted the "mature, conscientious and tech-savvy voters of Bengaluru city".

He added: "The government must recommend dissolution of Assembly and call for fresh polls because the Congress won 136 seats in the 2023 elections under EVM system."

The Congress government's decision comes in the backdrop of the party's leader, Rahul Gandhi, launching the nationwide "vote theft" campaign from here on August 8, seeking to justify his charge that the elections had been rigged in the Mahadevapura Assembly segment of the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency in 2024.

Bengaluru was among the first cities to utilise EVMs in the late 1980s and 1990s. City-headquartered Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) engineers played a pioneering role in developing the EVMs to ensure smooth and peaceful elections across India. BEL has also exported EVMs to various countries. Referring to this, Mr. Kumar said, "Our proud BEL and the Election Commission had asked the Congress leaders to prove that EVMs can be manipulated. But the Congress leaders had no moral courage to face the test. Neither did they have the courage to file an affidavit with the Election Commission." Responding to Law Minister H.K. Patil's statement that the government had received a number of complaints against EVM from the public, he said, "How did the government receive the complaint? How many complaints were there? Is there any survey done to find out the opinion of the public? I challenge Mr. Patil to reveal the details."

CM welcomes rationalisation of GST rates, but says it must benefit the common man and not the big companies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a belated response to the revamped GST slabs, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday welcomed the Centre's decision on rationalisation of GST rates, but cautioned that the reduction in rates must lower prices for people and not increase profit margins for big companies.

"If the benefits fail to reach the common man, the blame will rest squarely on the Union government," he said in a press release.

Important step

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the reduction of GST rates by the Narendra Modi-led government was an important step in alleviating both the monetary and compliance burdens on people and businesses.

Credits Rahul Gandhi

Giving credit to the party leader Rahul Gandhi, he said, "This decision is not new wisdom, but a long-delayed acceptance of what Rahul Gandhi, Opposition leaders, and Opposition-ruled States have demanded since 2016-17, when the Mr. Modi-led government hurriedly rolled out a faulty GST."

Mr. Sidaramaiah further pointed out that the GST system gives the Centre one-third of the total voting power, while all States together share the remaining two-thirds.

"For any reform to be implemented, a three-fourths majority is needed. This means that even if all States agree, a stubborn Central government can block the reforms. That is exactly what Mr. Modi's government did,"he said.

"Today's course correction proves that our stand was right all along. The people of India could have been spared years of hardship had the Union government listened earlier," the Chief Minister said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah reiterated his Cabinet colleague Krishna Byre Gowda's statement that Karnataka alone may lose ₹15,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore in revenue because of this decision. The Chief Minister who also holds the Finance portfolio urged the Centre to devolve the GST compensation cess still being collected on certain sin goods, back to the States.

Areca growers upset over 18% GST on copper sulphate

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

The Union government's decision not to reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on copper sulphate has upset arecanut growers and cooperatives marketing arecanut.

Only safeguard

Technical-grade copper sulphate, the key constituent of Bordeaux mixture, is an essential agricultural fungicide used almost entirely by small and marginal growers. It is the only proven effective safeguard against devastating crop diseases such as fruit rot (Mahali/Kole Roga) in arecanut and fungal diseases in other plantation crops like coffee, cardamom, rubber, and pepper.

"Since as early as 1910, when Dr. Leslie Coleman first investigated fruit rot disease in arecanut, no fungicide other than copper sulphate used in Bordeaux mixture has been found effective. It is a traditional, proven treatment for many diseases, in addition to being a soil health enhancer. In this context, the continued levy of 18% GST on technical-grade copper sulphate is unjust, insensitive, and unbearable for farmers already reeling under the burden of heavy rains, crop losses, and mounting input costs," A. Kishore Kumar Kodgi, president, Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative (CAMPCO) Ltd, told *The Hindu*.

We fail to understand the rationale behind taxing technical-grade copper sulphate at 18%, while all other major fertilizers and farm inputs are taxed at only 5%, says CAMPCO

"We fail to understand the rationale behind taxing technical-grade copper sulphate at 18%, while all other major fertilizers and farm inputs are taxed at only 5%," Mr. Kodgi said.

Confusion

Mr. Kodgi said that copper sulphate is listed under Chapter 28 with HSN code 28332500 as a sulphate, which attracts 18% GST. It is also categorised under the same chapter as a micro-nutrient, attracting a 5% GST. "This lack of uniformity, coupled with the absence of a distinct HSN Code for agricultural-grade copper sulphate, has opened the doors for confusion, misinterpretation, and ultimately exploitation of farmers," he said. Mr. Kodgi said that the cooperative has appealed to the government to fix the GST at 5% on all copper sulphate manufactured under CIB/FCO 1985 licences and used for agricultural purposes. "Introduce a separate HSN Code for technical-grade copper sulphate used in agriculture, clearly distinguishing it from industrial-grade copper sulphate," he said.

Mahesh Hulkuli, vice-president of the Shivamogga-based Malnad Areca Marketing Cooperative Society (MAMCOS) Ltd, said that leaders from the cooperative and farm sectors will meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman again to apprise her of the need to fix the GST on copper sulphate at 5%.

GST on pan masala

Referring to GST on pan masala fixed at 40%, the CAMPCO president said: "Since arecanut is the principal ingredient in pan masala, such taxation has unfairly reinforced the false and unscientific notion that arecanut itself is carcinogenic." Mahesh Puchchappady, president, Puttur-based All India Areca Growers' Association, said that there is an immediate need to reduce GST on copper sulphate to 5%.

CM advises students to shun mobiles and grab books instead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Calling on students to shun mobile phones and reach out to books for intellectual growth, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday underlined the role of teachers in ensuring this. Speaking at the Teachers' Day celebrations and award ceremony here, he said the ultimate aim of education was not just literacy, but to make students socially conscious and rational beings.

"The Constitution gave us all the right to education and our government is undertaking programmes to increase Constitutional literacy," said the Chief Minister.

Only an understanding of Constitutional values will ensure that even those who are highly educated do not end up continuing to stay within the confines of the caste system and believing in superstitions, which militates against the very idea of education, he argued.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for School Education & Literacy Madhu Bangarappa during the Teachers' Day celebrations at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that his government had prioritised education and set aside ₹65,000 crore for the sector.

Centre seeks report on 'irregularities' in shifting dwellers from Kali Tiger Reserve

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka, to inquire into and submit a report on the alleged irregularities in the relocation of forest dwellers from Kali (Dandeli-Anshi) Tiger Reserve in the State. This follows a complaint filed by V.M. Pramod, an activist based in Maharashtra, who approached the Ministry and the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

The Ministry, on Thursday, forwarded the complaint to the CEO, Karnataka CAMPA seeking a report on the issue on a priority basis. The complainant has called for an "immediate halt'' to the disbursement of CAMPA funds for the project, apart from seeking an independent probe into the alleged irregularities in relocation.

The relocation project, pegged at nearly ₹152 crore as per a 2021 report, aimed to move about 450 families from forest areas in Uttara Kannada district. But the petitioner contended that the CAMPA funds have been "misused", statutory safeguards violated, and several relocations carried out illegally.

The complaint to the Union Ministry of Environment states that relocation benefits were extended to individuals not entitled under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), including encroachers on forest and revenue land. The mandatory consent of gram sabhas was allegedly bypassed, even though both FRA and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018, explicitly require such approval, he said.

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-1/2025-26/ DATED: 04.09.2025.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 20/2025-26, Dated: 04.09.2025
Tender is invited by the Public Works Department on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000, Standard Tender Document KW-4 from the eligible registered Contractors of Karnataka PWD through E-Procurement for Providing furniture to the newly constructed Court building at Arasikere, Hassan District. In Hassan division. The tender amount is Rs.391.00 lakhs. Last date & time for receipt of tender is dt:17.09.2025 @ 4:00 PM. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಟೆಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/523/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

24th ANNIVERSARY

V.N.SAMA RAO B.Sc., B.L.
Advocate, Vellore
Birth: 30.03.1931 Death: 06.09.2001
"An extraordinary soul Lived for principles Leading us every moment"
Fondly remembered by:
VALLUR FAMILY MEMBERS

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st ANNIVERSARY

C.A. THEAGARAJAN
(ADVOCATE)
15 Aug 1958 – 06 Sep 2024
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INBRIEF

Naidu moots international arbitration centre in Vizag

Emphasising that mediation and arbitration play a key role in a judicial system, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said the State is ready to establish an international arbitration centre in Visakhapatnam with the support of the judiciary. He underscored the importance of adopting new technology and Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to make justice more accessible and ensure quicker and more efficient outcomes.

IRCTC to run special tour package focused on Gujarat

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has announced a special package named 'Bhavya Gujarat' in 'Bharat Gaurav Yatra' train from Tirupati to explore the places of tourist interest in Gujarat. The tour, designed for nine nights and 10 days, will start from Renigunta at 3 p.m. on October 7. The train offers 639 tickets, including 237 in sleeper class, 350 in 3AC and 52 in 2AC, priced at ₹18,400, ₹30,200 and ₹39,900 respectively per person.

HAL gets second LCA central fuselage from VEM Tech

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has announced that it has received the second central fuselage assembly for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas' Mk1A from its industry partner, Hyderabad-based VEM Technologies. The delivery was completed in a record time of three months. Company sources informed that three more central fuselages are being planned to be handed over to the HAL in the current financial year.

RTI clip of custodial torture puts Kerala govt. in the dock

Surveillance footage shows the police brutalising a Youth Congress worker; Opposition leader Satheesan demands dismissal of errant officers; State police chief says case would be resurrected

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) on Friday sought to put the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the dock over Kerala law enforcement's human rights record after a police surveillance camera footage of uniformed and plainclothes officers brutalising a Youth Congress worker at the Kunnumkulam police station in Thrissur in 2023 emerged in the public domain.

The victim, Sujeeth, a part-time temple priest, had released the footage,

A video grab from a tweet by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor showing custodial violence.

which he obtained agonisingly through the Right to Information (RTI) Act. The police had arrested Mr. Sujeeth from a temple festival venue for allegedly challenging officers on patrol for questioning his friends.

The government-attested video showed the police stripping him of his shirt and taking turns in systematically beating him inside the station.

Mr. Sujeeth alleged the officers repeatedly whipped his soles with a bamboo cane at a surveillance camera blind spot and slapped him repeatedly on the ear, permanently impairing his hearing and causing irreversible nerve damage.

Subsequently, the police arrested and remanded Mr. Sujeeth on charges of drunken rioting and attacking the police. A blood test conducted by government doctors cleared Mr. Sujeeth of the charge of alcohol impairment.

Party holds protests

Congress workers re-enacted the torture scenes in front of the DIG's office in Thrissur. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan demanded that the government dismiss the errant officers and prosecute them for attempted murder.

State Police Chief Revada Chandrasekhar told reporters that law enforcement would resurrect the case given the "new evidence" available on record.

'Kavitha's episode is to divert attention'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud described MLC K. Kavitha's episode as a 'drama' by BRS and its chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao's (KCR) family to divert public attention from the probe into the Kaleshwaram project.

Mr. Goud said that the KCR family was known to mislead people and play on their sentiments for their own benefit. "Whatever disputes Ms. Kavitha and K.T. Rama Rao have are related to money and power and nothing to do with the society," he said.

He said that Ms. Kavitha exposed corruption in the project, revealing the names of MLA and former Minister T. Harish Rao and former MP J. Santosh Kumar, which the Congress was discussing for years.

On the possibility of Ms. Kavitha joining Congress, he said that the party was not open to such people. "However, without the approval of AICC, I won't make any comment."

Post on GST backfires for Cong. Kerala Unit

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

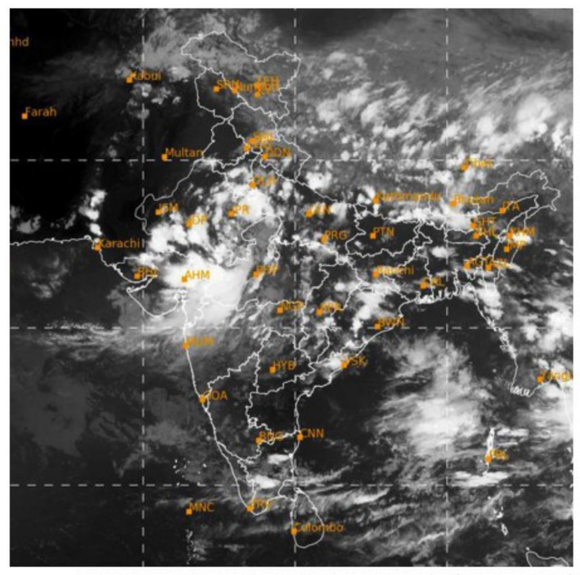
A now-deleted post from Congress's 'X' handle in Kerala aimed at the Centre's proposal to take beedis off the "sin goods" list, attracting the highest GST rate, ahead of the Bihar Assembly polls seemed to have backfired.

Taking a satirical dig, INC@Kerala wrote: "Bidis and Bihar start with B. Cannot be considered sin anymore." Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary called the "offensive remark" an insult to the "Biharis". Other top BJP leaders, including Ravi Shankar Prasad, followed suit. He said Bihar's electorate would punish Congress for holding the people of the State in derision. "Rahul ji, what are you doing? Does Tejashwi Yadav not have the courage to condemn this derogatory statement?" he said.

Subsequently, the INC@Kerala posted: "We see that our jibe at Modi's election gimmick with GST rates is being twisted. Our apologies if you felt hurt".

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	7.4	35.2	26.5	Kozhikode	49	29.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	3	33.7	24.8	Kurnool	—	33.4	24.2
Aizawl	10	29.2	21.5	Lucknow	8	34.1	24.9
Allahabad	15	33.8	25.0	Madurai	—	40.2	27.0
Bengaluru	1.8	27.4	20.6	Mangaluru	20.7	28.8	23.3
Bhopal	2	27.0	23.6	Mumbai	11	28.0	24.8
Bhubaneswar	32.6	30.6	25.9	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	0.9	34.8	23.1	New Delhi	8	33.2	23.7
Chennai	—	35.4	26.0	Patna	—	36.5	28.4
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.4	Port Blair	4	30.5	24.4
Dehradun	0.7	32.6	22.6	Puducherry	—	35.3	26.0
Gangtok	0.2	25.0	18.3	Pune	0.2	30.1	23.5
Goa	12	31.0	24.5	Raipur	0.6	32.6	24.1
Guwahati	—	35.1	26.6	Ranchi	6	30.8	22.4
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0	Shillong	17	24.0	17.3
Hyderabad	—	30.8	22.2	Shimla	2	25.4	18.0
Imphal	—	32.2	26.5	Srinagar	—	29.3	15.6
Jaipur	17	29.1	24.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.6	23.8
Kochi	14	29.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.4
Kohima	11	22.6	18.0	Vijayawada	—	35.7	29.2
Kolkata	—	34.6	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	13	22	72	44	71	
Bengaluru	10	47	60	—	90	
Chennai	2	17	—	40	104	
Delhi	10	16	29	116	132	
Hyderabad	—	19	18	101	89	
Kolkata	5	177	20	53	52	
Lucknow	4	40	48	28	58	
Mumbai	22	11	14	60	70	
Pune	—	35	82	36	72	
Visakhapatnam	12	48	26	88	122	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 250 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Karur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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The Chancellor

Universities need to be headed by distinguished academicians

The recent submission by Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to the Supreme Court of India, contending that the Chief Minister of Kerala has no role in the appointment of the Vice-Chancellors (V-C) of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University and Digital University Kerala, is another instance of how recent Governors are the political and ideological adversaries of an elected State government – as seen in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and, to some extent, West Bengal. Mr. Arlekar had appealed against an attempt by the Court to break the long-standing impasse over V-C appointments to these universities by guiding the creation of search-cum-selection committees and laying down rules. The Governor submitted that the 2018 UGC rules for search-cum-selection committees mandate persons of eminence in higher education and must not be connected in any manner with the university or its colleges. Thus, according to his submission, the Chief Minister, as someone intimately connected to all such institutions in the State, had no role. The draft 2025 UGC Regulations take this further by divesting State governments of a role in appointing V-Cs and bringing it under the Chancellor's purview. While the Court will rule on the merit of Mr. Arlekar's position, it is worth noting that Governors in States ruled by the BJP or its allies do not seem to have such problems with the governments they nominally head.

Governors were originally instruments of colonial power and were retained by independent India. From the very beginning, however, they have often acted as political agents of the ruling party at the Centre. Over time, central and State legislation defined and restricted the discretionary powers of Governors which were vested in them by the Constitution. After Independence, State governments retained the colonial-era practice of having Governors as heads of universities – to continue the stated intention of ensuring independent higher education as well as to have a "father figure" or a wise elder. The Acts passed by State legislatures, such as those for A.P.J. Abdul Kalam University, specifically define who the Chancellor will be. The Governor owes his or her position as Chancellor of a university to the respective State government. Even as the Court circumscribes the gubernatorial powers regarding the signing of Bills into law, State governments are acting decisively against having Governors as Chancellors of State universities – one of the few other domains where Governors have a strong say. Punjab and West Bengal, for instance, have passed a law making the Chief Minister the Chancellor. University heads need to be hands-on, distinguished academicians with a broader profile and vision, and strong managerial skills, rather than political appointees, State or Union.

A new leaf

Environmental compliance needs to be monitored at all levels

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has brought into effect a set of rules called the Environment Audit Rules, 2025, that allows the vital activity of environmental monitoring and auditing to go beyond the remit of State Pollution Control Boards. The rules will largely scrutinise whether industrial units are compliant with environmental regulation. The overall framework for monitoring and compliance within the existing environmental framework is presently supported by the Central Pollution Control Board, the Regional Offices of the Environment Ministry, and the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. They have, however, been facing significant constraints in terms of manpower, resources, capacity and infrastructure. "These limitations have hampered their ability to comprehensively monitor and enforce environmental compliance across the vast number of projects and industries operating nationwide," said a press statement by the Environment Ministry. This scheme aims to bridge the manpower and infrastructure deficits faced by regulatory authorities, thereby strengthening the effective implementation of environmental compliance mechanisms.

Under the new rules, private agencies can get themselves accredited as auditors. Much like chartered accountants, environment auditors can get themselves licensed and be authorised to evaluate the compliance of projects with environmental laws and their adherence with best practices in the prevention, control and abatement of pollution. Environmental regulation has, in recent years, transcended policing and bookkeeping. Given that human-caused climate change is seen as a problem that nations must collectively fix, new dimensions to environmental regulations have emerged. Thus, audits undertaken by these agencies can also be used for compliance with 'Green Credit Rules', under which individuals and organisations can gain tradeable 'credits' for afforestation, sustainable water management and waste management among other activities. Beyond industrial units, nearly every company in India will have to account for its direct and indirect carbon emissions. This will entail fairly complex accounting practices, which are beyond what Pollution Control Board officials can handle. However, preparing for the future should not be at the expense of compromising core responsibilities. It is usually at the district, block and panchayat levels that the most flagrant environmental travesties abound, which escape notice usually because of the lack of trained staff. The new regime must seek to empower them too.

India's strategic autonomy in a multipolar world

Shashi Tharoor

is a fourth-term Member of Parliament, Congress (Lok Sabha) from Thiruvananthapuram, is chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, and the author of 'Pax Indica: India and the world of the 21st century'

In the lexicon of international relations, few concepts have evolved as dynamically as "strategic autonomy". Once a term confined to academic debate, it now sits at the heart of India's foreign policy discourse, shaping decisions in an increasingly multipolar and volatile world. As global power shifts accelerate and traditional alliances fray, India finds itself navigating a delicate path between competing giants: the United States, China and Russia. The pursuit of strategic autonomy is no longer a theoretical aspiration. It is a daily diplomatic practice, fraught with complexity and consequence.

Strategic autonomy refers to a nation's ability to make sovereign decisions in foreign policy and defence without being constrained by external pressures or alliance obligations. It is not synonymous with isolationism or neutrality. Rather, it implies flexibility, independence and the capacity to engage with multiple powers on one's own terms. For India, the concept has deep historical roots, going back to colonial subjugation and free India's determination never to let anybody else decide our place in the world for us. From Nehru's non-alignment during the Cold War to the Modi government's "multi-alignment" in the current era, successive governments have sought to preserve India's freedom of action while adapting to changing geopolitical realities. In theory, strategic autonomy offers a middle path between rigid bloc politics and passive disengagement. In practice, it demands deft diplomacy, institutional resilience, and a clear-eyed understanding of national interest. It is a balancing act – sometimes precarious, often imperfect, but essential for a country such as India that aspires to global leadership without becoming a client state.

The current global landscape presents both opportunities and challenges for India's strategic autonomy. The unipolar moment of American dominance has given way to a fragmented world order, where China's assertiveness, Russia's revisionism and the West's internal divisions, accentuated by Washington's unpredictability, create a fluid and unpredictable environment. For India, this means recalibrating its relationships with major powers while safeguarding its core interests – territorial integrity, economic growth, technological advancement, and regional stability.

India's relationship with the United States has deepened dramatically over the past two decades. From defence cooperation and intelligence sharing to joint military exercises and technology transfers, the strategic partnership has matured. The Quad grouping (Australia, Japan India, the U.S.), Indo-Pacific dialogues, the incipient I2U2 (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S.) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), and shared concerns over China's rise have further cemented ties. Yet, the relationship is not without friction. The Trump administration's erratic trade policies, followed by stinging tariffs and sanctions in his second term, have strained economic ties. Washington's pressure on India to reduce its energy and defence dealings with Russia, and to align more closely with western positions, has tested New Delhi's resolve.

India's response has been measured. It continues to engage with the U.S., maintains independent positions on global conflicts, and insists on the primacy of national interest over ideological alignment. This is strategic autonomy in action, not anti-Americanism, but a refusal to be subsumed by American priorities.

As the global order shifts, India must continue to walk the tightrope, treading a delicate path between the United States, China, and Russia

Ties with Beijing and Moscow

China presents a more complex challenge. The border clashes with India of 2020 shattered illusions of benign coexistence, and tensions remain high despite diplomatic overtures. Yet, China is also one of India's largest trading partners, a key player in regional institutions, and a competitor whose actions shape the strategic environment. India's approach is one of cautious engagement and firm deterrence. It strengthens border infrastructure, deepens ties with Indo-Pacific partners, and invests in indigenous defence capabilities. At the same time, it participates in multilateral forums such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, where China plays a leading role – a difficult but necessary balancing act.

Strategic autonomy here means resisting both confrontation and capitulation. It means asserting sovereignty and refusing to be another country's counterweight to a rising China, while controlling Chinese access to the Indian economy, and simultaneously keeping channels of communication open. It means recognising that rivalry does not preclude diplomacy, and that decoupling is not always desirable or feasible.

India's relationship with Russia is rooted in Cold War solidarity, defence cooperation and shared strategic interests. Despite Moscow's growing closeness to Beijing and Russia's global isolation following the Ukraine conflict, India has maintained its ties – buying oil, importing weapons, and engaging diplomatically. This has drawn criticism from western capitals, but India has stood firm. Its relationship with Russia is historical, multidimensional and not subject to external veto. It continues to diversify its military imports, invest in indigenous production and explore new partnerships, but without abandoning old ones. Strategic autonomy here is about refusing to choose sides in a binary contest, and, instead, crafting a foreign policy that reflects India's unique geography, history and aspirations.

During India's G-20 presidency in 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India was now the voice of the Global South – unbowed, plural and potent. Its democracy, he said, was not just a system but a "bouquet of hope", nourished by the strength of its multilingual, multicultural fabric. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar argues that partnerships must be shaped by interest, not sentiment or inherited bias. This is diplomacy with a spine – assertive, pragmatic, and unapologetically Indian, seeking to be "non-West" without being "anti-West". This stance resonates across the Global South, where many rising and middle powers concerned with peace and stability in their own regions, are choosing to safeguard their geopolitical and economic interests rather than be swept into the vortex of great-power rivalries. They seek agency, not alignment; voice, not vassalage.

What emerges is a vision of India as a sovereign pole in a rebalancing world – a nation that neither aligns blindly nor isolates itself. India's rise, then, is civilisational, plural and deeply political. While India's pursuit of strategic autonomy is principled, it faces headwinds as it walks the tightrope among the major powers. The global economy is increasingly interdependent, and technological ecosystems are dominated by a few players. Defence modernisation requires partnerships and climate diplomacy demands coordination. In such a world, autonomy must be redefined – not as isolation, but as resilience and adaptability.

Domestic factors also play a role. Political polarisation, economic vulnerabilities and institutional constraints can limit the effectiveness of autonomous decision-making. Strategic autonomy requires not just diplomatic skill, but economic strength, technological capability and political coherence. We cannot be truly autonomous from a position of weakness.

Moreover, in a world of cyber threats, Artificial Intelligence warfare and space competition, autonomy must extend beyond traditional domains. It must encompass data sovereignty, digital infrastructure and supply chain security. India's recent efforts to build indigenous platforms, secure critical minerals and assert its voice in global tech governance are steps in this direction.

More than a slogan

Strategic autonomy is not just a slogan. It is a strategy. It is the art of navigating a turbulent world without losing one's bearings. As the global order shifts, India must continue steadily to walk the tightrope – engaging with the U.S. without becoming a vassal, deterring China without provoking war, and partnering with Russia without inheriting its isolation. It must invest in capabilities, cultivate partnerships, and assert its interests with clarity and confidence.

In doing so, India does not reject the world – it reclaims its agency within it. Strategic autonomy is not about standing alone; it is about standing straight, and standing tall.

Fixing problems, unlocking India's growth potential

Harsha Vardhan Agarwal

is President, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

India's economic journey has always been shaped by bold reforms, and the latest set of Goods and Services Tax (GST) measures announced at the 56th GST Council meeting on September 3, 2025, may well prove to be one of the most consequential yet. For years, businesses and policymakers alike have called for simplification, predictability, and fairness in India's indirect tax regime. With the latest decisions – streamlining rates, correcting anomalies, easing compliance and strengthening dispute resolution – the government has delivered a package that balances ambition with pragmatism.

What makes this moment special is not just the scope of the changes but also the collaborative spirit behind them. The result is what many are calling GST 2.0 – a reform designed not merely to fix today's problems but also to unlock India's growth potential for the decade ahead.

Relief for many income groups

Essentials such as soap, toothpaste, hair oil, shampoo, kitchenware and packaged foods now fall under lower tax brackets, immediately easing household budgets and boosting demand in sectors that employ millions. For housing, reduced GST on cement and construction materials will bring homes within reach for more families, supporting the government's 'Housing for All' mission while stimulating allied industries such as steel, tiles, sanitaryware and paints. Infrastructure projects too will benefit from lower costs of inputs, improving project viability and freeing capital for expansion.

Life-saving drugs and critical medical devices have been moved to nil or 5% GST, cutting treatment costs and expanding access for patients. In a country that has emerged as a global hub for affordable medicines, this is both a social and economic win.

Labour-intensive industries such as textiles, handicrafts, leather, footwear, and toys – stand to gain from lower rates that protect margins, safeguard livelihoods, and create jobs in semi-urban and rural clusters. The automotive sector, a key driver of growth, will also see a boost as now more affordable small cars, motorcycles, buses and trucks will encourage demand and investment in auto-manufacturing hubs.

GST 2.0 is both a tax reform and the start of a new chapter in the growth journey

Helping exporters and MSMEs

The rationalisation of rates would also help exporters. Long-standing distortions created by inverted duty structures in textiles, fertilizers and renewables are finally being corrected. This will make Indian products more competitive globally while reducing import dependence.
Export-heavy sectors such as handicrafts, leather, and engineering goods – most driven by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) – are well placed to gain benefits. Lower duties on capital goods and intermediates will also promote local value addition, directly supporting the 'Make in India' initiative.

One of GST's biggest challenges has always been litigation. Interpretational disputes, classification complexities and uncertainty over tax treatment have burdened businesses and clogged up the system. Rationalisation addresses this by simplifying slabs and harmonising rates for similar goods. Clarifications on intermediary services and post-sale discounts further reduce ambiguity, bringing long-awaited relief to service exporters and aligning tax rules with commercial practices.

Small exporters will welcome the decision to remove thresholds for refunds on low-value consignments. This ensures fairer treatment for courier and e-commerce players, where liquidity pressures are acute. Faster, more reliable refunds will ease working capital challenges and encourage reinvestment in growth.

Perhaps the most path-breaking measure is the Simplified GST Registration Scheme for Small and Low-Risk Businesses. By introducing automated approvals within three days, the government has dramatically reduced entry barriers, which will cut compliance costs, encourage formalisation, and allow MSMEs to expand into new markets with greater ease.

Given that MSMEs are the backbone of India's economy – contributing to jobs, exports and innovation – the significance of this step cannot be overstated.

Institutional reform has also received a boost with the operationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT). By enabling faster and fairer resolution of disputes, GSTAT will strengthen confidence in the system and reduce case backlogs. This signals that GST is not just about revenue collection but also about building a fair and predictable tax framework that businesses can trust.

The broader message is equally important. The streamlined two-rate GST structure (a standard rate of 18% and a merit rate of 5% with a special de-merit rate of 40% for a select few goods and services) aligns India more closely with global best practices, moving it to the kind of tax regime that advanced economies employ. For international investors, the reforms send a strong signal of policy stability, predictability and ease of doing business. In a world where global supply chains are being reconfigured, India is positioning itself not just as a vast market but also as a reliable and competitive investment destination.

A pathway to economic expansion

Of course, reforms are never the end of the road. Implementation will be key, and challenges such as delays and procedural complexities still need attention. But what stands out is the intent. The government has shown that it is listening to industry, willing to act decisively, and committed to building a tax system that fuels, rather than impedes, growth.

GST 2.0 is more than just a tax reform. It is an economic reform that promises to boost consumption, empower MSMEs, strengthen competitiveness, and reinforce India's growth momentum. It lays the foundation for India's next phase of economic expansion.

The story of GST has always been one of bold ambition. With these reforms, India has taken a decisive step toward realising that ambition. For businesses, consumers and policymakers alike, this is not just an adjustment of rates. It is the start of a new chapter in India's growth journey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sops in GST slabs

There can be no second opinion that the 18% GST charged on the premium payable by individuals for their medical and life insurance policies affected many, especially senior citizens and pensioners. Many of them stopped renewing the policies as they were unable to afford payment of the basic premium with the levy of a steep 18% GST. Their genuine requests to reduce the rate of GST fell on deaf ears. Many of them suffered as they were left with no valid medical insurance to cover exorbitant hospitalisation charges when they fell sick. It should not be forgotten that even life-saving medical grade oxygen, diagnostic kits, glucometers and corrective spectacles were charged at 12% and an alarming 18% for thermometers. After making the hapless public shell out the maximum GST, the government has now rushed to revise the GST slabs. One wonders whether this change of mind is on account of the Assembly elections in crucial States. Insurance companies too should not use the GST waiver to hike the basic premium, unethically.

Shalini Gerald,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

GROUND ZERO

Tariff shock: Fabric piled up at RRK Cotton in Palladam in Tamil Nadu as buyers in the United States have cancelled their orders. M. PERIASAMY

Unravelling at the seams

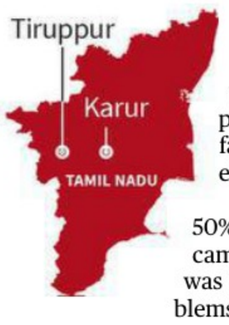
From August 27, the United States has levied a 50% tariff on Indian goods exported to them, disrupting business for thousands of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises in India in sectors such as textiles, garments, and jewellery. **M. Soundariya Preetha** reports on how America's tariffs have upended operations in the apparel hubs of Tiruppur and Karur in Tamil Nadu, a major garment-exporting State

Twenty-year-old Vanaja, a tailor in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu, is worried that U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Indian imports could impact her wages.

Vanaja has been working at RRK Cottons India Private Limited, a garment company in Palladam town in the industrial district, for the last two years. She earns ₹480 a day.

She is among the handful of tailors at work on a Tuesday afternoon at the plant. Both work and workers have reduced drastically over the last few days, she says.

"People are saying there is no work because the U.S. has placed a tax on us. I have informed my parents (who live about 300 kilometres away in Tiruvannamalai district) about the situation at the factory," she says.



RRK Cottons has been manufacturing T-shirts and underwear for some of the largest U.S. retailers for the last 10 years. Its website says the company takes "immense pride as one of the largest underwear manufacturers in India." Its customers include eight U.S. brands.

On September 2, less than a week after a 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. on Indian goods came into effect, its Palladam factory, which was buzzing with activity a year ago (the problems started in January when Mr. Trump assumed office) is silent. A few workers move the fabric stocks and a handful of women and men do minimal work at the garment making hall. Only 100 of the 480 sewing machines and one of the five fabric spreader machines are in operation on the sparsely-lit shop floors. Stocks worth ₹65 crore have piled up. Two of the company's five plants have shut down in the last four months and the workforce of 2,000 has reduced by half, says R. Rajkumar, Managing Director of RRK Cottons.

He has no idea what to do next. "Almost 80% of my business is to the U.S. The trouble started in January when talks of tariffs started. The buyers prioritised China suppliers, delayed our shipments, and then cut back on their orders from us. Now, all the goods that we had produced for orders placed earlier are on hold. I have not received payments for shipments made in the last two months," he says.

Rajkumar believes he can "manage" for another two weeks. "But after that I will have no option but to shut down operations because I have to make payments to nearly 150 vendors, to banks, for electricity," he says.

Piles of stocks

India exports $11 billion worth of textiles and apparel to the U.S. each year, of which nearly $4 billion is contributed by Tamil Nadu's western districts – Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Karur, Erode, and Salem, according to the Southern India Mills Association. Exporters in Tiruppur, Karur, and Coimbatore produce a range of goods for multiple buyers in the U.S., including retail chains such as Walmart, Costco, and Target; fashion brands such as GAP; and smaller retailers and brands.

Since these western districts in Tamil Nadu host a dense textile supply chain, even a small dip in exports ripples through the entire ecosystem.

> We fear that Tiruppur may lose ₹3,000 crore-₹5,000 crore worth of annual business that involves core products as buyers can easily source them from other countries
>
> **K.M. SUBRAMANIAN**
> President of the Tiruppur Exporters Association

In Tiruppur, popularly known as the 'dollar city', R. Gopalakrishnan, chairman of Royal Classic Mills who was on a visit to the Tiruppur Exporters Association (TEA), said that 80% of his business is to the U.S. He has stopped work at his factory since August 27 – the day when a punitive 25% tariff imposed by the U.S. on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect. That was in addition to Trump's 25% tariff on many imports from India. The total duties amounting to 50% have been imposed for a variety of goods, including garments, gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, and furniture and chemicals.

"When the tariff was initially 25%, buyers said the cost could be shared between us," says Gopalakrishnan. "When the U.S. raised it to 50%, a buyer I've worked with for 20 years said he would still pay for the fabric since he had committed to it. He said I could ship the fabric to his suppliers in Vietnam, Bangladesh, or Sri Lanka to be made into garments. The buyers don't want to take completed goods from us for sales in the U.S. because of the 50% tariff."

According to K.M. Subramanian, president of TEA, Tiruppur ships garments worth ₹12,000 crore-₹15,000 crore to the U.S. each year, which makes up 32%-35% of its total exports.

He says garment exporters include those who do business only with U.S. buyers; those who export to the U.S. and other countries; and those who export to countries other than the U.S. and the European Union (EU). Among companies that export goods to the U.S., some export basic products or core products that are shipped all through the year and some export high fashion goods that are seasonal in demand.

Subramanian, who has seven factories in Tiruppur district, explains how the situation changed for the worse over the last few months. Before Mr. Trump announced the tariffs, Indian garments faced tariffs ranging from 4% to 16%. When the U.S. imposed 25% tariffs, buyers discussed sharing the costs of orders already placed with exporters, since competing countries faced similar duties. But with tariffs now at 50%, most buyers no longer want the goods though it is not easy for them to quickly find alternative suppliers for high fashion products, he says.

"We fear that Tiruppur may lose ₹3,000 crore-₹5,000 crore worth of annual business that involves core products as buyers can easily source them from other countries," says Subramanian.

Displaying some of the garments for children that he has made for a brand based in the U.S., he says he also has stocks worth ne

arly ₹18 crore that were made for the US buyers. "On average, garment units make only a 5% profit on their sales. We have all been negotiating with the wholesale buyers in the U.S. or the brands for the last few days. We want to ship the goods because if we sell these products in the domestic market, we will get only 20% of the value," he adds.

The problem is more acute for Siva Subramaniam of Raft Garments, who recently expanded his factory in the hope that India would gain from Trump's tariffs. He believed that the tariffs would not be as high for India as it has been on countries such as China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.

"My customers place their orders through wholesalers. I have 25% goods ready for shipment and some in the production stage. One customer demanded a 16% discount and has given me a week's time to make a decision and ship the garments. Another customer said he could bear 10% of the tariffs. Two other buyers have put the orders on hold. I make less than 10% profit on my sales and employ 350 workers. There are just 40 days to go before the Deepavali season starts and the workers are anticipating a good amount as bonus. Even if the business is disrupted only for a couple of months, we will lose orders for the next six months," he says.

Impact on MSMEs

The garment export business in Tiruppur is supported by thousands of Micro, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in production and supply of yarn and fabric, textile processing, compacting, printing, embroidery work, and ironing and packing.

Just a few feet off P.N. Road in Tiruppur city, Premier Textile can be located on a narrow lane, among the MSMEs that do sub-contracting work for garment exporters. A few young men from the northern States and women from other districts of Tamil Nadu are busy sorting and folding fabrics.

"I run eight embroidery machines with 80 workers and take on sub-contract work from garment exporters. Now, I have only 50% of the usual workload, and fabric is piling up because the exporter won't lift it – his American buyer has put the order on hold," says M. Thirupathy, Managing Director of Premier Textile.

"About 2,000 embroidery machines supply work worth ₹1,000 crore a year to garment exporters. Even if a portion of the export order is lost, the entire supply chain struggles and that results in job losses," he says.

One of the dyeing units, which is among the MSMEs in Tiruppur, has decided to stop operations and send home 50 workers as it is not been getting fabrics from exporters.

While about two lakh people are directly employed at the exporting industries in Tiruppur, another two lakh are indirectly employed. This includes workers from 19 States across India.

Women workers at a home textiles unit in Karur, Tamil Nadu M. PERIASAMY

Though some of the export units have suspended operations, the workers in these units have been able to get jobs because Tiruppur faces a labour shortage. However, the gravity of the situation will be known in another two weeks, say exporters.

> Absenteeism has reduced from 25% to 15% in the last few days because the workers fear that they may lose their job
>
> **GOPINATH**
> Factory manager at an exporting unit. Karur

Wage worries

Karur, another textile hub in Tamil Nadu with over 800 units, exports kitchen, bed, and bath textiles – such as towels, tablecloths, and cushion covers – worth ₹6,500 crore annually, of which about ₹2,500 crore goes to the U.S.

At one factory, workers troop out at 5.30 p.m. "We do not give overtime for the workers now as there is no work and finished goods worth ₹2 crore are in stock with us," said Azeem, the factory manager.

"In the last few days, the buyers have just started talking to us. They are asking for huge discounts or threatening to shift the orders to other countries. The immediate impact is for ₹1,500 crore," says P. Gopalakrishnan, president of the Karur Textile Manufacturers Exporters Association.

At the 110-acre Karur Textile Park, Sudhamani, 39, a tailor at a home textile export unit, says she is aware that some of the exporting factories in Karur are reducing workers because of lack of orders from the U.S. "I earn ₹11,000 a month and have a son and daughter to take care of. If work reduces, my wages will also come down," she says.

Prakash, who is employed at the packing section, harbours the same fear. He earns ₹12,000 a month and lives with his parents and brother. Less work means no overtime, fewer working days, and loss of wages.

"All the workers have this fear. In fact, absenteeism has reduced from 25% to 15% in the last few days because the workers fear that they may lose their job," says Gopinath, the factory manager at the exporting unit.

The factory has dedicated production lines for each brand that it supplies to. A board in one of the halls in the seven-storeyed building lists the brands that the company supplies to. "Walmart has stopped buying from us and Target has reduced its orders," says Gopinath.

Planning for the future

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, when orders dipped, we did not send workers home. We reduced the working days and working hours. If the U.S. tariff issue is not resolved, we may have to resort to similar measures. In the long term, we are looking at diversifying to value-added technical textile products," says Gopalakrishnan.

In recent years, e-commerce shipments from Karur have started picking up. "Not only Amazon; some retailers are also in talks with us, asking us to sell through their platforms," he adds.

As suggested by some of the American buyers, exporters in Tiruppur and Karur are also wondering whether they can partner with companies in African countries or Sri Lanka for value-additions and shipping from those locations. However, these steps will take time and cannot be decided immediately, they say. "Our buyers have been asking us if we can add value in the African countries as it will reduce the logistics cost too. But we do not know the capabilities in those countries," says Gopalakrishnan.

If the government announces a package that will meet 25% of the tariffs, exporters will be able to talk to the buyers and get order for the summer season. If those orders do not come, businesses will be in deep trouble, says Raja Shanmugham, founder of Warsaw International at Tiruppur.

Further, the European market slowed down in the last two to three years and buyers there have started asking for reduced prices, say garment exporters.

N. Thirukumaran, secretary of TEA, says that as an immediate relief measure, the government should announce a relief package that will enable the exporters to negotiate with buyers. And for the long-term, exporters will start studying new markets. "The India-EU Free Trade Agreement is critical," he says stressing the urgency for an announcement.

Members of the INDIA bloc led a protest in Tiruppur demanding immediate support from the Central government. On the same day, representatives of more than 25 textile associations met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Chennai and submitted their demands. "We have sought reintroduction of the Focus Market Scheme and at least a one year moratorium," said A. Sakthivel, vice chairman of AEPC.

"The government is working on a package and has assured us of its support," said Ravi Sam, vice chairman of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

The associations are hopeful of support measures from the government. However, they want the government to continue talks with the U.S. and resolve the tariff issue amicably even as they start exploring new markets.

"My exposure to the U.S. is only 20%. We just had a call with one of the U.S. buyers. If they ask for a discount, the exporter will give it and ship the goods because there is no other option. We need higher duty drawback rates to meet the high tariffs. What is also worrying is the European buyers are also asking for a price cut now because they know our situation," says C.R. Anandakrishnan, Executive Director of KPR Mill.

soundariya.preetha@thehindu.co.in

From Page One

U.S. 'lost' India, Russia to 'darkest' China: Trump

"We have seen the inaccurate and misleading statements made by Mr. Navarro, and obviously reject them," he said.

Officials said that the tariffs and Mr. Trump's negative remarks show a "miscalculation" on the part of the U.S. President.

"India is the most populous democracy with one of the largest markets in the world. We are active in multiple global platforms and are partnering the U.S. on many global challenges. Targeting us after nearly 27 years of stable relationship is nothing but a miscalculation by the Trump Presidency and there is a lot of criticism internally within the U.S. administration that is making it evident," an official source said.

Officials also noted that the photograph used on Mr. Trump's social media post – featuring Mr. Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping – was not taken at the recent SCO summit in Tianjin, but predates the current tensions in India-U.S. relations.

The MEA's official silence is in line with the cautious approach that India has taken with regard to Mr. Trump's verbal volleys, which have intensified since he imposed a punitive 50% tariff on imports from India, citing Indian purchases of Russian crude.

While maintaining a studied silence on the U.S. President's remarks, India has been working on the dialogue front for a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Meitei body rejects pact with Kuki-Zo outfits

This is his first visit to Manipur since ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted on May 3, 2023.

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC), a conglomerate of civil society organisations, agreed to open the National Highway-2 (Imphal-Dimapur) passing through Kangpokpi district "for the free movement of commuters and essential goods," the MHA said.

The COCOMI, which has been in talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to find a roadmap for peace in Manipur, said the extension of the SoO agreement despite "the series of terrorist and criminal acts" committed by these groups was a decision that ran completely against the interests of the indigenous people of Manipur.

The COCOMI said the popularly-elected government of Manipur had, through a Cabinet decision on March 10, 2023, unanimously resolved to abrogate the SoO pact. "Under the current President's Rule, the administration is being run by an authority appointed from New Delhi, which lacks the legitimacy to represent the people of Manipur. The decision to extend the SoO under such circumstances is illegitimate," COCOMI said in a statement on Friday.

It said that by extending legitimacy and recognition to the armed groups under the deceptive pact of the SoO, the Government of India had raised serious doubts about its role and responsibility in dealing with narco-terrorism in the region.

Northern States get reprieve from rain but grapple with aftermath of floods

Water levels in dams and rivers begin to gradually drop but many residential areas and farmlands are still marooned and crops have been damaged; IMD predicts light to moderate rain in northwestern and western regions during next seven days

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) remain flooded on Friday as the river Yamuna overflowed and entered residential areas following heavy rain. (right) Fumigation in progress at a flood relief camp at ITO flyover in New Delhi. ANI, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Even as northern Indian States experienced some relief from relentless rainfall on Friday, they continued to grapple with the aftermath of monsoon rains that have wreaked havoc across the region.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in the 24-hour period ending 8.30 a.m., rainfall was recorded at a few places in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan, while east Rajasthan saw isolated heavy rainfall. In Punjab and Haryana, rains were observed at many places, while in Himachal Pradesh, it was across most places.

The IMD has predicted light to moderate rainfall at most places over the country's northwest and west region during the next seven days.

Isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over west Rajasthan on September 5 and 8; Uttarakhand on September 6-7; Himachal Pradesh on September 8-9; Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi during September 8-10; Punjab on September 10; east Uttar Pradesh on September 10-11 and east Rajasthan on September 8, the IMD said in its forecast on Friday.

Pilgrims rescued

In Himachal Pradesh, over the past two days, as many as 1,166 stranded 'Manimahesh Yatra' pilgrims were evacuated from the Bharmour area under a rescue operation spearheaded by the State government.

Since June 20, following the onset of monsoon, the hill State has so far witnessed a loss of 197 human lives, according to data sourced from the disaster management cell of the Revenue Department.

Punjab Revenue Minister Hardeep Singh Mundian said with rainfall subsiding in upper hilly regions as well as in Punjab, the State had witnessed relief from floods.

As many as 43 people have lost their lives in Punjab since August 1 due to ongoing rains and floods while 1.72 lakh hectares of crops have been damaged. Several roads, low-lying areas and farmland have been inundated. The rains have left the Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas rivers flowing through Himachal Pradesh and Punjab in spate.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who on September 4 visited flood-hit areas in Punjab, in a post on X, said the Centre stood with the people and farmers of Punjab in this hour of crisis.

In Delhi, the water level in the Yamuna continued to drop during the day after reaching the season's highest on September 4. Over 8,000 people who have been evacuated from along the banks of the river are currently lodged in tented relief camps.

In Haryana, parts of which experienced little rain, there were waterlogging and flooding in a few areas of the State.

In the Kashmir Valley, water level began to recede below the danger mark in the Jhelum river on Friday and infused a sense of relief among the flood-affected populations.

Hundreds of local people rushed to survey the damage inflicted on large swathes of apple orchards in Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

Meanwhile, the Central Water Commission on Friday warned of widespread flooding across several States, with 22 river monitoring stations reporting 'severe flood' situation and 23 others 'above normal' water levels.

BJP leaders not helping disaster-hit Himachal: CM

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing its leaders of staying limited to 'social media' platforms for their activities while failing to provide tangible assistance to disaster-affected residents.

He said Congress leaders were actively engaging with affected communities and working to reduce the suffering caused by the disaster. The State government was extending assistance to the affected families from its own limited resources, as no support had so far been received from the BJP-led Union government, said the Chief Minister during his visit to affected areas of Kullu district.

Mr. Sukhu said the State government had requested the Centre to provide 'one bigha' of forest land to each affected family to help them resettle in safer locations.

He said the request is being made as 68% of the State's land was categorised as forest land and the State could not provide such land without the Centre's approval.

14.44 lakh hectares of crops hit by heavy rains in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra has witnessed extensive agricultural losses following heavy rain over the past few weeks, with crops on approximately 14.44 lakh hectares of land reported damaged across 29 districts, State Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne said on Friday.

The period between August 15 and 20, when the rain was particularly heavy, witnessed the most damage, according to the Minister.

As many as 191 talukas have been affected, with kharif crops suffering damage in 654 revenue circles. Twelve districts reported crop losses exceeding an area of 10,000 hectares each.

Nanded was the hardest hit, with around 6.20 lakh hectares affected, followed by Washim and Yavatmal at 1.64 lakh hectares each.

5 workers missing after water from dam floods hydel plant in Gujarat

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Five workers were feared dead after water from the Mahi river flooded a hydropower plant near Lunawada in Gujarat's Mahisagar district on Thursday afternoon, the police said on Friday.

A multi-agency rescue operation is under way. The incident occurred around 3 p.m. at Dolatpura plant, Mahisagar Superintendent of Police Safin Hasan told *The Hindu*. He said that 15 workers were on maintenance duty inside a large well in the plant when water was suddenly released from the upstream Kadana dam. The water rushed into the well, trapping the workers. "It's almost 60 feet deep and water is still leaking into it. So, pumping out [water] is also not helping," Mr. Hasan said.

"Personnel from the National Disaster Response Force, SDRF as well as fire brigade personnel from Vadodara and Mahisagar were engaged in the rescue operation... We have also engaged local swimmers from Lunawada," he said.

According to Mr. Hasan, water from Mahi river entered the plant premises on Thursday afternoon, and even after 24 hours, there was no sign of the five missing workers.

"With the discharge from the Kadana dam upstream, water suddenly rushed into the well while the workers were inside carrying out maintenance. Ten of them managed to escape, but five were swept away," he said.

Rescue teams began operations soon after the incident, but the missing workers have not been traced yet, Mr. Hasan said. "We have brought in an underwater search vehicle from Vadodara as the tank is deep and visibility is extremely poor due to the presence of oil and grease in the water," he added.

Key accused in Amritsar grenade attack held

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused in the March 2025 grenade attack on a temple in Amritsar.

He has been identified as Sharanjit Kumar, aka Sunny, a resident of Bhaini Bangar village in Gurdaspur, Punjab. He was arrested in Gaya, Bihar.

"The accused was found to have been actively involved in the conspiracy, and execution of the terror attack early on March 15. The grenade attack was carried out by two bike-borne assailants, Gursidak Singh and Vishal Gill, who were working on the directions of foreign-based handlers," said the agency.

The NIA alleged the conspiracy was hatched by handlers with a transnational presence in Europe, the United States, and Canada. "The handlers provided terror hardware, funds, logistical support, and target details to their on-ground operatives in India," the agency said.

A consignment of four grenades was received by Sharanjit from another arrested accused on March 1.

Recent recusals in higher courts send mixed signals on upholding transparency

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Recent recusals in a top tribunal, a High Court, and finally, the Supreme Court have sent confusing signals about whether judges must reveal why they choose to walk out of cases.

At the country's top court, for instance, August 26 witnessed the inexplicable and sudden recusal of Justice M.M. Sundresh from hearing a bail plea filed by activist and advocate Surendra Pundalik Gadling in the Surjagarh iron ore mine arson case of 2016. The bail case had been with Justice Sundresh's Bench since July 9, 2024. For well over a year, the case had seen a series of 13 adjournments till the day of the judge's recusal, on August 26.

The recusal order does not reveal the reason why the judge chose to suddenly recuse after so many adjournments. The one-line order blandly read: "Subject to orders of the Honourable The Chief Justice, post before another Bench, in which one of us, Justice MM Sundresh, is not a member."

Notable exceptions

The impenetrable veil thrown over judicial recusals was partially lifted recently when a judicial member of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma, recorded in an order that he was recusing himself from a corporate insolvency appeal as a "revered member of the higher judiciary" had approached him for a favourable order for one of the parties.

Again, a Madhya Pradesh High Court judge, Justice Vishal Mishra, chose transparency by recording in his recusal order that a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA had "attempted to call him" about an illegal mining case.

However, these two instances, that of the NCLAT member and the High Court judge, are exceptions. The style of Justice Sundresh's recusal order, non-explanatory and brief, is the general rule.

No formal rules

There are no formal rules governing recusals by judges. Judges who choose to opt out of a case can do so without giving any reason.

Justice Kurian Joseph (now retired), in his separate opinion in the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) judgment, had emphasised the need to frame specific rules for judicial recusal. "It is the constitutional duty, as reflected in one's oath, to be transparent and accountable, and hence, a judge is required to indicate reasons for his recusal from a particular case," Justice Kurian had observed. He had argued that giving reasons for recusing oneself served the legal principle that "justice must not only be done, but be seen to be done".

14,000 NHM contractual staffers quit in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

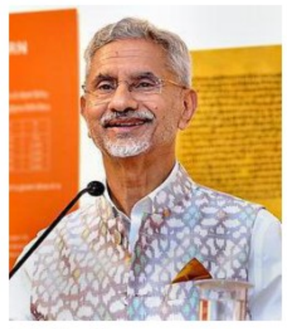
Over 14,000 contractual staffers of the National Health Mission (NHM) in Chhattisgarh have submitted their resignations en masse after the Health Department on Wednesday terminated the services of 25 employees leading their agitation seeking the implementation of a 10-point charter of demands.

The stir, which entered its 19th day on Friday, is posing a two-pronged challenge to the BJP government, with health services impacted across the State and the Congress cornering it over its handling of the issue. The NHM employees have been agitating since August 18, demanding regularisation of services and other perks.

According to government officials, the NHM executive committee had accepted four of the 10 demands in its meeting on August 13. However, the employees' union claims that the government has not taken concrete steps to implement them. The Congress accused the government of "fuelling the unrest" through its inaction.

External Affairs Minister to join Brazil-led BRICS virtual summit on U.S. tariffs: MEA

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI



S. Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will represent India at a virtual summit of BRICS nations on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Friday, announcing India's participation in the meeting convened by Brazil President Lula da Silva to discuss tariffs imposed by the U.S.

The summit, which is bound to irk the U.S. government, comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China for the SCO summit and conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, which U.S. officials criticised.

Countries taking part

Brazilian officials have not confirmed how many of the 11-member BRICS grouping of emerging economies will participate in the summit and at what level. Shortly after U.S. tariffs were imposed on August 6, Mr. Lula had called the Mr. Modi and said he would speak to each of the BRICS members to rally support towards forming a "common" plan to deal with the move.

On Friday, the Kremlin's spokesperson confirmed that Mr. Putin would take part in the summit, and sources said they expected other confirmations over the weekend.

"From [India's] side, it will be the External Affairs Minister [S. Jaishankar] who will be participating in it," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal when asked at a weekly briefing. "This BRICS summit is at the leaders' level," he added, but did not clarify why Mr. Modi would not attend the meeting.

India is the next Chair of the BRICS grouping, and will host the summit of countries including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet announced the specific agenda of the meeting to be held on Monday. However, local media reported that the summit would discuss the impact of U.S. tariffs on global trade, and measures to strengthen multilateralism in order to counter the effects of unilateral economic measures.

The U.S. has imposed 50% tariffs on goods from Brazil, like India, the two countries with the highest levies worldwide. China and South Africa also face high 30% tariffs, and Indonesian goods are levied 19% tariffs, with a waiver for its most important agricultural exports such as palm oil, cocoa and rubber.

All other BRICS nations including Russia and Iran, which are among the most heavily sanctioned countries, are on the lowest rung of 10% tariffs.

MGNREGS is staring at a very 'uncertain future', says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Congress criticised the Narendra Modi-led government for "making a mockery" of the scheme by "chronically underfunding" it over the past 11 years of the BJP tenure at the Centre.

In a long post on X on Friday, Congress's general secretary (communications) and former Rural Development Minister Jairam Ramesh said that the scheme stared at a very "uncertain future".

The Finance Ministry's regulations prohibit government schemes from spending more than 60% of the budgeted expenditure in the first half of a financial year. "The Ministry has blown through 60% of its budget within five months itself, leaving a question mark on what the future holds for crores of India's rural families," he said. *The Hindu* had reported on August 28 that ₹51,521 crore out of ₹86,000 crore earmarked in the 2025-26 Union Budget has been spent, leaving ₹79 crore under the programme for September.

"MGNREGS has been chronically underfunded for the last eleven years, and the budget has stayed constant for the last three years despite high inflation. This makes a mockery of the scheme's demand-driven vision and leaves crores of workers unable to secure work when they need it," Mr. Ramesh said.

He said that payments to workers were routinely delayed way past the statutory period of 15 days without compensation; 20-30% of MGNREGS's budget every year went to clearing the previous year's dues; wages had barely been raised in the past 11 years; and the recent technological intervention to make the programme more transparent had been exclusionary. Estimates suggest, he said, that this has prevented over two crore workers from securing their legal right to work and payment.

Will ensure GST benefit reaches consumers: govt.

Commerce Minister says the new structure will lower prices, boost demand, and facilitate ease of doing business; revamp a result of long consultations and has nothing to do with U.S. tariff, he says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the government would keep a watch to ensure that the benefit of the substantial reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates was passed on to consumers. All sections of industry had already given assurance in this regard, he said.

"The government will fulfil its responsibility, and the State governments should also keep a watch that this GST is passed on. All sections of industry have already given me assurance...," Mr. Goyal said during a press conference at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters here.

Thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bringing "a historic and comprehensive reform that will transform the country's economy to new heights", Mr. Goyal said it was the first time since Independence that such a major change had been made in the tax structure, and a big relief was given to the consumers, farmers, and industries. The simplification would facilitate ease of doing business, he said.

Big leap: Union Minister Piyush Goyal addresses a press conference at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

In the coming days, the new GST structure would lead to an increase in demand, and the prices of a wide range of consumer goods would go down after September 22, he said.

The GST rationalisation was an outcome of about a year-long consultations among the stakeholders and had nothing to do with the U.S.'s decision to impose 50% tariff on Indian goods, Mr. Goyal said. In reply to a question, he said the Union government's decisions were not guided by any election.

"During the 10 years of Congress rule, there was corruption, and no effective measures or transformational reforms were undertaken. Atal*ji* (the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee) had imagined a single tax. All 30-35 different types of taxes, duties, and levies should be combined to form a single tax. Atal*ji* did not get elected in 2004. Then, the UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government just kept making promises...," Mr. Goyal said, responding to claims by the Congress and its allies on "delayed" rationalisation.

During the Congress-led rule, no State government had the confidence that the Centre would help them in case there was a loss or reduction in revenues due to the change, he said. Under Prime Minister Modi, the government had the courage to decide that after the introduction of the GST, if the revenue of any State dipped or the revenue growth was less than 14%, the Union government would compensate it for the first five years, he said.

INBRIEF

Bihar CM lays foundation of 17 schemes worth ₹1,160 cr.

Ahead of the Bihar polls, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 17 schemes worth ₹1159.84 crore in Patna district during a programme organised in Punpun. The schemes include the construction of a bridge and approach road on the Punpun river between Samda and Gulariya Bigha villages under Paliganj block at a cost of ₹19.77 crore. Development of tourist facilities at Ular Surya Mandir in Paliganj at a cost of ₹14.99 crore and road construction work from Punpun station to Patna Ring Road via Akouna village at a cost of ₹88 lakh. He also laid the foundation work of connecting the Masaurhi road to the Patna-Gaya road with a two-lane at a cost of ₹41.48 crore and inaugurated the Laxman Jhula cable suspension bridge built at Punpun *pind daan* site.

Mumbai Police register FIR after hoax terror threat

A message received on the helpline number of the Mumbai Traffic Police on Thursday, threatening to blow up Mumbai, was a hoax message as per preliminary investigation, a Mumbai police official told *The Hindu* on Friday. "We are taking all the precautions, he said, adding that the police were still investigating the matter. "Messages were received on Thursday at 2 p.m. claiming that Mumbai will be blown up. The messages had also used foul language against the Mumbai police," an officer said. "As soon as we received the messages, we passed them on to the Crime Branch and to the local police station," an official of the Mumbai Police Traffic department said. "We have registered an FIR under Sections 351(2) and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," a police officer said.

Mob vandalises National Emblem at Hazratbal shrine

A mob vandalised the National Emblem engraved on a plaque during a protest at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar on Friday. Darakshan Andrabi, chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, sought police action against the protesters and accused the National Conference (NC) of inciting the people. The incident took place on a day when J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah accused the Lieutenant Governor of denying a holiday as per the Islamic calendar on the birthday of Prophet Muhammad and "hurting sentiments of people". Worshippers assembled and damaged the emblem with stones. "In Islam, idol worship is strictly forbidden. Placing a sculpted figure at the revered Hazratbal Dargah goes against this very belief," NC leader and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said.

On the draw

New technology, innovation conclave to 'replace' Science Congress to be held in Nov.

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Signalling a break from the past, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) is set to organise the first-ever Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) in November.

The ESTIC may 'replace' the Indian Science Congress, the oldest congregation of scientists in India, with a rich history predating Independence. Over the years, it has gone into oblivion, with the last being held in 2023.

"You could see it as a replacement of the Indian Science Congress," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, DST, did not respond to a request for clarification on whether the ESTIC will indeed replace the Science Congress.

Since 2015, the government has nurtured the India International Science Festival (IISF) that is organised by the science-related departments. It has among its organisers Vijnana Bharti – a science popularisation outfit affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

"The IISF is more of a festival, a '*mela*' (fair), and meant to popularise science among students and young people. It is not a forum where scientists and technologists can discuss bigger themes of science, technology and innovation," said the official.

The IISF is meant to popularise science among students and young people.

This year, the IISF is expected to be held at the Panjab University, Chandigarh.

The IISF does not usually see participation by international Nobel Laureates, nor does Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit it in person. However, he has made virtual appearances or sent video messages for the IISF.

The ESTIC website says that Mr. Modi is expected to be present at its inaugural session.

Traditionally, the Indian Science Congress, organised by the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, and funded by the DST and held in the first week of January, has always had the Prime Minister at the inaugural. However, the last time Prime Minister Modi appeared in person was at the 107th Science Congress at Lovely Professional University, Ludhiana, in 2020. The following two years, the event was not held, citing the pandemic.

In 2023, Mr. Modi made an appearance, but only online, at the 108th edition. In 2024 and this year, the Science Congress was not held due to a spat between the DST and the ISCA's executive body over the organisation of the event. The DST has said that it would no longer fund the ISCA.

The inaugural ESTIC will be held at the Bharat Mandapam here from November 3-4. All the science-related Ministries, ranging from atomic energy to space and information technology, will be involved in it. According to the ESTIC website, there will be 11 thematic technical sessions and 75 exhibition stalls by 'deep tech' start-ups at the event. Nobel Laureate Andre Geim (2010, Physics) is expected to make an appearance. Jean-Yves Le Gall, former president of the French Space Agency, and Professor Masaru Tomita, Keio University, Japan, are among the foreign dignitaries expected.

In a meeting earlier, Science Minister Jitendra Singh said the ESTIC would "showcase cutting-edge research, deep-tech breakthroughs, and thought-provoking discussions, igniting a new era of scientific leadership towards Viksit Bharat 2047".

Clip of Ajit Pawar 'rebuking' an IPS officer draws criticism

NCP leader says he only wanted to keep situation calm; Oppn. condemns 'political intimidation'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

A video clip in which Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Ajit Pawar is allegedly heard rebuking a young woman IPS officer, over an issue of illegal sand mining, has gone viral.

While the Deputy Chief Minister said he did not intend to interfere with law enforcement, and had only wanted to ensure that the situation on the ground remained calm, the Opposition has slammed him over the incident.

Anjana Krishna is the sub-divisional police officer of Karmala in Solapur district. She is reported to have made a field visit in response to complaints of illegal sand mining. She is seen listening to a phone call on speaker mode. "Do you have so much audacity? I am the Deputy Chief Minister. Give me your number. I will directly call you," says the speaker in the call.

After receiving flak over the video, Mr. Ajit Pawar posted on X, "My attention has been drawn to certain videos circulating regarding my interaction with police officials in Solapur. Let me state clearly that my intention was not to interfere with law enforcement but to ensure that the situation on the ground remained calm and did not escalate."

NCP-SP MP Supriya Sule posted on her social media account, "All members of the Executive must be protected from political intimidation to uphold the 'Idea of India' our Constitution enshrines".

Congress seeks law for quota in private colleges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi-led government must bring in a law in the next session of Parliament to implement Article 15(5) of the Constitution, which provides for reservation to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and the Other backward classes in all academic institutions, including those which are privately owned, the Congress said on Friday.

Adivasi Congress chief Vikrant Bhuria, the party's OBC department head Anil Jaihind, and SC department head Rajendra Pal Gautam cited a parliamentary committee report to argue that students from disadvantaged communities are underrepresented in private universities, with only 0.89% of their students from SC communities, 0.53% from Scheduled Tribes, and 11.16% from OBC communities.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education's report to Parliament on August 20 unanimously recommended that the government pass a law implementing Article 15(5) of the Constitution.

"The Congress, therefore, once again demands that the Modi government take the recommendation and introduce a law implementing Article 15(5) of the Constitution in the Winter Session of Parliament," a Congress leader said.

Mr. Gautam said the number of private educational institutions in the country has been continuously increasing, but due to the non-implementation of reservation and lack of money, accessing these institutions has become challenging for students from the SC, ST, and OBC categories.

Quoting Babasaheb Ambedkar on the importance of reservation and the right to vote for social equality, Mr. Bhuria said, "But the people of the BJP are stealing both the right to vote and reservation. This is a conspiracy, under which government educational institutions are being gradually closed first, and then the entire education system is being handed over to private hands."

"Narendra Modi claims to be an OBC, but the OBC community has suffered more in these 11 years than ever before. Since 2017, Modi has not even been able to revise the creamy layer," Mr. Jaihind said.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
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कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत-टोंक
क्रमांक:-SE-Tonk/2025/डी/1559 दिनांक 25-08-2025
विषय- निविदा सूचना संख्या: 06/2025-26 में संशोधन
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 06/2025-26 पत्रांक 1361-65 दिनांक 31.07.2025 के द्वारा निविदा जारी की गयी थी जिसमें निम्नानुसार संशोधन पढ़ा जावें। पूर्व प्रकाशित निविदा RO NO. **DIPR/11167/2025/06.08.2025** के क्रम में प्रकाशित किया जाना है।

विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित	संशोधन जो पढ़ा जावें।
निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड करने की तारीख (वेबसाईट पर) एवं निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख वेबसाईट पर)	दिनांक 01.08.2025, दोपहर 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 27.08.2025 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 01.08.2025, दोपहर 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 08.09.2025 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	दिनांक 28.08.2025 को सायं 2.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 09.09.2025 को सायं 2.00 बजे तक

Approximate value of work	Bid Security
(i) Upto Rs. 20 Crores	@2% (Subject to a maximum of Rs. 30 Lakhs)
(ii) Rs. 20 to 50 Crores	@1 ½% (Subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 Lakhs)
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Note:- Bid Security will be a fixed sum rounded off to the nearest ten thousand Rupees.
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DIPR/C/12693/2025 अधीक्षण अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. वृत टोंक

NAGPUR METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Station Road, Kingsway, Sadar, Nagpur-440001.
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 12/2025-26
Name of Work :- Development of Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority's Office, Residential and Commercial Complex Project at Sondapar, MIHAN, Nagpur on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Sale (DBFOS) Mode.
The Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority, intends to **Develop Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority's Office, Residential and Commercial Complex Project at Sondapar, MIHAN, Nagpur on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Sale (DBFOS) Mode**. The NMRDA is hereby calling proposal from competent entity to be appointed as a developer for this prestigious project.
E-tender can be downloaded from Govt. of Maharashtra's portal (www.mahatenders.gov.in). The terms and conditions of e-tenders are available on e-tenders portal. (www.mahatenders.gov.in).
Bidding Process Timelines

1	RFP Sales	08.09.2025 to 29.09.2025
2	RFP Submission End Date	29.09.2025 up to 02:00 PM
3	Pre-Bid Meeting	On 4.00 P.M. on Dt. 16.09.2025 in the office of Superintending Engineer, Station Road, NMRDA Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur
4	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (If Possible)	30.09.2025
5	Cost of Tender Document (Non-Refundable)	Rs. 50,000/-
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be deposited online at time of submission of tender only	Rs. 3,22,00,000/-

NMRDA reserves the right to alter, modify any clause of the bidding documents including the contract agreement and also to annul the bidding process without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Advt.No.: S.E.(NMRDA)/41/2025-26 Dated : 05.09.2025
-sd- Superintending Engineer, N.M.R.D.A., Nagpur

INBRIEF

LOC issued against actor Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra

The Mumbai Police have issued a Lookout Circular (LOC) against Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra in connection with a ₹60 crore cheating case, officials said on Friday. The LOC was issued by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police as the couple makes frequent international trips, an official said. The case was registered against the actor and her husband at Juhu police station on August 14 for allegedly duping a businessman of nearly ₹60 crore in a loan-cum-investment deal, he said. Businessman Deepak Kothari had lodged a complaint in this connection, the official said. PTI

South Korean couple rescued from 17,000 feet in Ladakh

The Indian Army Aviation wing on Thursday night airlifted two South Korean nationals stranded at over 17,000 feet in the icy heights of Ladakh. According to the Army, around 8.05 p.m., a request was received to evacuate Hyun Woo Kim and his wife from the Kongmarula Pass. The location, at an altitude of over 17,000 feet, posed severe challenges with snow-covered peaks and treacherous terrain. Helicopters were launched by the Army Aviation squadron at 8.20 p.m. By 9.15 p.m., a helicopter successfully landed on the icy ridge. The couple were evacuated and later handed over to medical authorities for necessary care.

Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay visits Ram temple in Ayodhya

Bhutan Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay arrived in Ayodhya on Friday morning for a four-hour visit, during which he offered prayers at the Ram temple and other prominent shrines. Mr. Tobgay landed at Ayodhya airport around 9.30 a.m. on an Indian Air Force plane. He was given a red-carpet welcome by the district administration and received by Uttar Pradesh Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Ayodhya Mayor Girish Pati Tripathi, and MLA Ved Prakash Gupta, along with senior administrative and police officials. Mr. Tobgay performed *darshan* at the Ram Lalla temple, Hanumangarhi, and other prominent temples in Ayodhya. PTI

Woman Maoist killed in encounter in Narayanpur

At least one Maoist was killed in an anti-Maoist operation conducted along the Dantewada-Narayanpur border, said the police on Friday. A police statement added that based on an intelligence about presence of Maoists in the East Bastar Division of the border, a search operation has been started by joint teams of security forces. A woman Maoist was killed in the operation, which has not been called off yet. "In the search operation so far, the body of one woman Maoist, .303 rifle, two BGL launcher weapons and other daily useful items have been recovered from the encounter site," the statement said.

Role of teachers in a student's life is paramount: President

Like food, clothing, and shelter, education is essential for dignity and security, says Droupadi Murmu; she urges teachers to pay special attention to all students, including girls, who are relatively shy or come from less privileged backgrounds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Honouring educators: President Droupadi Murmu presents an award during the National Teachers Awards, 2025 ceremony at the Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

President Droupadi Murmu had a message for educators on Teachers' Day – technology is necessary in a classroom, but a "smart teacher is the most important thing" for a student.

While conferring National Awards on 81 teachers from across the country here on Friday, the President said that smart boards, smart classrooms and other modern facilities have importance, but the role of a teacher in a student's life is paramount.

"Smart teachers are those teachers who understand the needs of their students' development. Smart teachers make the process of study interesting and effective with affection and sensitivity," she said.

Ms. Murmu recalled her time as a teacher and termed it a very meaningful period of her life.

The President said that like food, clothing, and shelter, education is essential for a person's dignity and security, and sensible teachers imbibe those in children.

Ms. Murmu said that education makes a person capable. "Children from the poorest of backgrounds can touch the skies of progress with the power of education. Affectionate and devoted teachers play the most important role in giving strength to the flight of children. The biggest reward for teachers is that their students remember them throughout their lives and make commendable contributions to the family, society and country," she said.

The President put a premium on girls' education and said, "By investing in the girls' education, we make an invaluable investment in the building of our family, society and nation."

She highlighted that the National Education Policy, 2020 emphasises expanding Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and providing special education facilities to girls from underprivileged classes. But the success of any initiative related to education depends on teachers, Ms. Murmu said and urged them to contribute more to girls' education.

Ms. Murmu urged teachers to pay special attention to all students, including girls, who are relatively shy or come from less privileged backgrounds.

Awards to teachers

To commemorate Teachers' Day, 45 awards were given by the Department of School Education and Literacy, 21 by the Department of Higher Education, and 15 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Among the awardees were Shashi Paul, a teacher from the Government Model Centre Primary School in Solan, Himachal Pradesh, who has centred his pedagogy on multi-grade, multi-level strategies and joyful learning with low-cost aids. He has institutionalised structured sports training, which led students to achieve success in chess and badminton. Recognising innovation and STEM promotion, Hitesh Kumar Bhundiya from the Shri Swaminarayan Gurukul Vidyalaya in Rajkot, who established an Atal Tinkering Lab, got feted. One of his students has received a research patent for a cotton spinning machine prototype.

Narinder Singh from the Government Primary School in Ludhiana was recognised for establishing an IT Park, a smart library, a maths park and a herbal garden in the school. Neelam Yadav from the Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Tapukada in Rajasthan secured CSR funding for creating a digital lab. Madhurima Tiwari from the PM Shri Composite Vidyalaya Rani Karnawati in Mirzapur turned a dilapidated school with low student enrolment into a thriving institution. Kumari Nidhi from the Primary School Suhagi in Kishanganj, Bihar, saved dozens of girls from child marriage and re-enrolled them in school.

'Collateral consequences of Ukraine war affecting Global South'

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has voiced regret over the Ukraine conflict's "collateral consequences", including prices of fuel, saying countries of the Global South have been left to fend for themselves, as Delhi underscored that diplomatic efforts hold the promise to end the war and bring lasting peace.

"India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We maintain that the loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and no solution can be found on the battlefield," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said on Thursday.

Addressing the UN General Assembly debate on "The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine", he said India continues to "note with regret that the collateral consequences of the conflict, including prices of fuel, is affecting the world at large and particularly the Global South, which have been left to fend for themselves. From our perspective, it is critical that their voices are heard, and their legitimate concerns duly addressed".

India plans to strengthen nuclear deterrence, drone warfare capabilities

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Ready for action: TPCR-2025 envisages adaptive jamming systems, electronic denial bubbles to neutralise attacks by hostile drones. PTI

India has set out an ambitious plan to reinforce its nuclear deterrence and expand drone warfare capabilities under the Technology Perspective and Capability Roadmap (TPCR-2025), a 15-year blueprint for military preparedness.

The document highlights measures to sustain credible nuclear deterrence through survivability systems and advanced delivery platforms. While it avoids reference to specific warhead technologies, it outlines future acquisitions such as nuclear command-and-control infrastructure, radiation detection tools, and mobile decontamination units. Unmanned ground vehicles for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) reconnaissance are also on the agenda, aimed at strengthening protection against potential nuclear or chemical fallout.

On the aerial front, the Army has projected requirements for stealth remotely piloted aircraft with ranges of up to 1,500 km and altitudes of 60,000 feet. These drones would carry electronic warfare payloads; nuclear, biological, and chemical detection equipment, and even guide artillery fire.

Loitering munition

The road map also places emphasis on loitering munitions, designed to carry out precision strikes with artificial intelligence-enabled targeting and reusable warhead systems. In addition, integrated surveillance and targeting drones are expected to boost the battlefield capabilities of mechanised forces.

India is also preparing for the emerging threat of hostile drone swarms.

The TPCR-2025 envisages adaptive jamming systems and electronic denial bubbles with a 15 km radius to neutralise such attacks, underscoring the rising importance of electronic warfare in modern combat.

Officials said the initiatives were closely aligned with the government's self-reliance push in defence production by reducing dependence on foreign imports.

With the road map, India has signalled a strategic shift towards integrated deterrence – combining nuclear resilience, electronic warfare, and unmanned strike platforms – to strengthen national security in the coming decades.

Operation Sindoor has shown India's resolve: Army chief

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

General Upendra Dwivedi

The Indian Army moved with "rhythmic precision" during Operation Sindoor, demonstrating synergy from soldier to commander and involving the civil and State administration, the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, said on Friday.

He was speaking at the launch of the book titled *Operation Sindoor: The Untold Stories of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan*, written by Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillon (retd).

He noted that every action – and even deliberate inaction – during Operation Sindoor carried long-term implications, demanding careful consideration of time, space, resources, and objectives.

"This operation reflects India's resolve, guided by strategic clarity and a whole-of-nation approach," he added.

'No precedents'

Gen. Dwivedi said there were no precedents for such an operation.

"I spoke to many veterans on April 22 and 23, including those who had served in those areas, to explore available options. Several brilliant suggestions came in, and they were integrated as per the requirement," he recalled.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD + 14582

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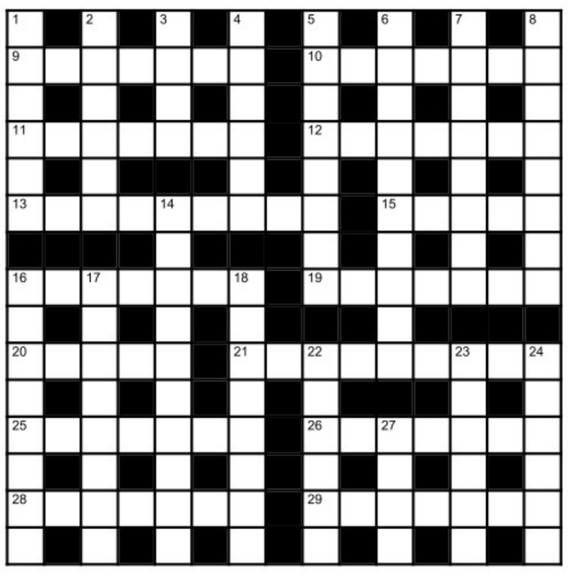
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Order ready to retreat - that was a long time back (4,3)
10 Country gets bulk organic neem - regularly ordered (7)
11 Runs into drug addict to pocket some money illegally (7)
12 Pressure to continue taking order (7)
13 Lots to follow after Jerry, say, gets romantic (9)
15 Starts flowing into reservoir - small trickles initially (5)
16 Track yen with vigour (7)
19 Ring me in - ring for a cathartic (7)
20 Set free including soldier (5)
21 Point check over comfortable environment (9)
25 Essentially those with a girl praise the Lord (7)
26 Industry supremo occasionally comes in - creates a mess (7)
28 The disadvantage of following a domain-specific language is that it's cumbersome (7)
29 Scientist's equipment initially could be stored outside (7)

Down

1 God! It's back to Catholic saint (6)
2 Drill book - a blessing (6)
3 Chances of Democrats getting very big coverage (4)
4 Way stories come up about a chemical (6)
5 Could lose ring - cover up leads to nowhere (3,2,3)
6 Frightfully bad end - go through from cover to cover (10)
7 Weight mark up as I log in (8)
8 New born melody queen's ascent under light (8)
14 Western production - do cancel it (10)
16 Share greeting with one from ancient kingdom (8)
17 City with a tragic past - ask again to rebuild (8)
18 A visual feast to look at Charlie with Andrew (3,5)
22 Not even once the vessel briefly raised a duty (6)
23 Liked someone? It's alright overall (4,2)
24 Complaint by a boy in setter's custody (6)
27 Unusual - it's close to four and time's up (4)

SUDOKU

9			3					
				2			4	
2				9	8	3		1
	2			3	1	5	7	
	4	5	9	8			2	
3		2	8	7				4
	7			4				
					3			8

No.SS6633 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	7	8	1	4	6	9	3
1	3	6	2	9	7	5	8	4
4	8	9	5	3	6	2	7	1
2	7	1	3	8	9	4	6	5
8	9	3	4	6	5	7	1	2
6	5	4	7	2	1	9	3	8
3	4	8	9	7	2	1	5	6
9	6	5	1	4	3	8	2	7
7	1	2	6	5	8	3	4	9

FAITH

Teachings in Bhagavatam

Sri Muralidhara Swamigal said in a discourse that Srimad Bhagavatam shares the teachings of Gurus throughout its narrative. These teachings appear in order by *Skanda* (chapter). In the first *Skanda*, sage Narada teaches Veda Vyasa. In the second *Skanda*, sage Suka teaches King Parikshit. Here, Suka notes that a person should think of God at least during his last moment. In the third *Skanda*, God as Kapila teaches his mother. Kapila explains how the fetus in the womb cries, remembers previous births, and prays for a noble Guru in this birth for liberation. The fourth *Skanda* shares sage Narada's teachings to Dhruva. The fifth *Skanda* features Rishabhayogeeswara. He teaches that a Guru cannot be called so if he fails to show the way to reach God. In the sixth *Skanda*, Yama, the God of death, instructs his subordinates. He tells them not to disturb or approach the devotees of God as explained in the story of Ajamila.

In the seventh *Skanda*, child devotee Prahlada acts as a Guru and explains nine types of devotion. In the eighth *Skanda*, Sukracharya, the preceptor of the Asuras, tries to stop King Mahabali from giving charity. However, he fails. Meanwhile, King Mahabali becomes a Guru and advises Sukracharya. King Ambarisha, as a Guru, demonstrates the essential features of surrender to the world. The tenth *Skanda* contains the Gopikas teaching Uddhava "Bhramara Geetham." In the eleventh *Skanda*, the Navayogis provide a detailed explanation of Srimad Bhagavatam. Lord Krishna tells Uddhava that His devotees are more dear to him than Mahalakshmi, His divine consort, who never separates from Him.

INBRIEF

Citroën India introduces Basalt X starting ₹7.95 lakh

Citroën India introduced SUV-Coupe Basalt X range with all-new interiors featuring CARA, 'India's first intelligent in-car companion' at prices starting ₹7.95 lakh (ex-showroom). The 'fully-loaded' Basalt X range was unveiled at an introductory price of ₹12.89 lakh (ex-showroom). Shailesh Hazela, CEO & MD, Stellantis India of which Citroën India is a part, said, "With the Basalt X, we are proud to introduce CARA conceived, engineered and launched in India."

GST rate rejig: Tata's Nexon to be cheaper by ₹1.55 lakh

Tata Motors said that post the implementation of the revised GST rates, its cars and SUVs would be cheaper in the range of ₹65,000 for a Curvv to ₹1,55,000 for a Nexon as it would pass on the full benefit of the recent GST reduction to customers, effective September 22. While a Tiago would see a price reduction of up to ₹75,000, a Tigore would be cheaper by up to ₹80,000. Altroz, and Punch would be cheaper by up to ₹1,10,000 and ₹85,000 respectively.

Dassault Aviation to raise Reliance Infrastructure JV

French aerospace major Dassault Aviation will increase its stake in a joint venture with Reliance Infrastructure Ltd. from 49% to 51%, as per a stock exchange filing by Reliance Infrastructure. Reliance Aerostructure Ltd. (RAL), a unit of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd., will transfer 2% of its holding in Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd. (DRAL) to Dassault Aviation, the filing said Currently, RAL holds 51% in DRAL while Dassault Aviation has 49%.

Not easy to switch to domestic from global, say exporters

Trade experts/exporters say global market diversification is a more feasible option but can't happen overnight and will need govt. support

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

Tough times: The domestic market cannot substitute the export market for India, says Mr. Dhar . REUTERS

Multiple factors, such as low surplus absorption capacity and different specifications, severely inhibit a shift to the domestic market for exporters struggling to sell in the U.S. because of the 50% tariffs.

Trade experts and exporters believe international market diversification is a more feasible option, but even that cannot happen overnight and would need active support from the government.

Market stress

"Diverting export products to the domestic market is not a big possibility as there is oversupply. Already, all domestic players are under stress, as you can see from their heavy discounts. International market diversification is definitely a solution, but it is not an immediate option," pointed out Sanjay Jain, chairman, ICC National Textiles Committee.

Rationalisation of GST rates could expand the domestic market for some sectors such as footwear, but not for others like diamonds and jewellery, because for every product, the domestic market's capacity to absorb will be different, explained Ajay Sahai of FIEO. "For low-value items like some handicrafts, there might be demand in the domestic market, but for high-value items like carpets, the capacity to absorb may be limited due to high price and because it is not a fast-moving item," he said.

Long-term solution

Thirukkumaran Natarajan, chairman of Tiruppur-based Esstee Exports India Pvt. Ltd., said diversifying to domestic markets can only be a long-term solution. "The set-up is different for exports and domestic (demand) as markets are different and overheads are also different, said Mr. Natarajan, who is also the Secretary of Tiruppur Exporters Association.

Exporters need to keep supplying to their foreign markets to retain the major brands that source supplies from them, said Mithileshwar Thakur of AEPC.

"If exporters stop supplying to major foreign brands, they may just leave. So, exporters will try their best to retain them," Mr. Thakur said.

The domestic market cannot substitute the export market for India, pointed out Biswajit Dhar from the Council for Social Development.

"India is a hugely import-dependent country. We need the foreign exchange," he said. Mr. Dhar added that the best way to deal with the loss of U.S. market would be to diversify to newer markets in Africa, Latin America and Central Asia and the Centre should provide all support.

(The writer is with The Hindu Businessline. Inputs from T.E. Raja Simhan.)

'SEBI ramped up Jane Street probe'

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's markets regulator launched a formal investigation into Jane Street's trading practices even though its surveillance department had recommended otherwise, due to continued complaints from market participants, two sources said.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also believed inadequate data was used in the initial probe into the U.S. high-frequency trading firm, the people said, amid fears it might have manipulated the country's stock and bond markets.

SEBI on July 4 temporarily barred the firm from local markets on allegations of market manipulation, which the company has denied.

Slaps penalty

SEBI imposed a $567 million penalty on Jane Street, which the company has deposited. While it can restart trading in India, it has refrained from doing so, Reuters reported earlier.

On Wednesday, Jane Street filed an appeal before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) against SEBI seeking documents and data which led to the formal inquiry.

The firm questioned why the regulator went against the advice of its own surveillance department that the inquiry against Jane Street should be closed and sought documents that supported the regulator's change of stance.

SEBI believed inadequate data was used in the initial probe.

The appeal, initially scheduled for Monday, will now be heard by the Tribunal on Tuesday after a government change to the date of the Eid holiday.

Emails sent to SEBI and Jane Street seeking comments were not answered.

According to two sources, SEBI's top leadership was not satisfied with the robustness of the first examination concluded by its own surveillance department on December 11 and chose to initiate a formal investigation towards the end of December 2024, which gives it powers to seek data from the trading firm's custodian bank and domestic trading partner.

According to Sumit Agrawal, a former SEBI official and founding partner of Regstreet Law Advisor, once a formal investigation is initiated any prior conclusions lose weight, and the process begins anew.

"Earlier determinations, whether favorable or adverse, are set aside in favor of an independent investigation," he said.

The firm in its appeal has also sought copies of the complaints against it.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,711	-0.01
US Dollar	88.09	0.03
Gold	1,06,970	0.85
Brent oil	65.22	-2.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2281.40	2.60
Adani Ports	1321.80	-6.40
Apollo Hosp	7804.50	-95.50
Asian Paints	2579.90	11.30
Axis Bank	1055.90	5.50
Bajaj Auto	9084.50	13.50
Bajaj Finserv	2014.40	12.20
Bajaj Finance	937.60	2.85
Bharat Elec	370.80	-1.70
Bharti Airtel	1895.30	14.90
Cipla	1553.40	-24.40
Coal India	392.65	1.20
Dr Reddys Lab	1268.10	15.10
Eicher Motors	6580.50	155.50
Eternal Ltd.	329.15	2.90
Grasim Ind	2804.00	-5.80
HCL Tech	1419.00	-24.30
HDFC Bank	963.40	2.15
HDFC Life	759.55	5.30
Hero MotoCorp	5363.00	12.00
Hindalco	743.80	4.75
Hind Unilever	2633.40	-33.20
ICICI Bank	1402.80	-2.70
IndusInd Bank	757.05	2.20
Infosys	1444.60	-18.40
ITC	407.35	-8.55
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	309.40	-0.05
JSW Steel	1073.10	0.70
Kotak Bank	1945.50	-4.20
L&T	3553.60	-39.00
M&M	3561.30	79.80
Maruti Suzuki	14895.00	233.00
NestleIndia	1208.50	-4.10
NTPC	328.70	-1.35
ONGC	234.13	-1.59
PowerGrid Corp	285.35	3.55
Reliance Ind	1375.00	15.70
SBI Life	1805.30	14.20
State Bank	806.60	-2.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	592.50	6.70
Sun Pharma	1593.60	11.30
TataConsumerProduct	1072.40	1.30
Tata Motors	691.70	4.20
Tata Steel	167.68	0.87
TCS	3048.30	-47.40
Tech Mahindra	1477.90	-22.50
Titan	3665.30	-25.80
Trent Ltd.	5528.50	-0.50
UltraTech Cement	12601.00	-50.00
Wipro	243.67	-1.30

Mercedes unveils new E-Class LWB

Mercedes-Benz India introduced the E-Class LWB 'Verde Silver' priced at ₹78.5 lakh (E200), ₹80.5 lakh (E220d) and ₹91.7 lakh (E 450 4MATIC AMG Line) after GST rate reduction.

'GST rate rejig to reduce cost of construction by 3.5-4.5%'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The rationalisation of tax rates on construction material by the GST Council is expected to provide the real estate sector some relief but since the rates applicable on property stay unchanged, there would be stability in taxation, Crisil Intelligence said.

Since the rates applicable on affordable housing (1%), under-construction properties (5%) and completed properties (exempt) remain unchanged, the status quo offers stability for both developers and homebuyers, it said.

The reduction in GST rate for construction materials is also expected to improve developer margins and lower project costs as construction materials typically account for 50-60% of the overall construction cost for builders.

The GST rate reduction on construction materials may improve developer margins.

"The 10 percentage point reduction in GST on cement is estimated to result in a 3.0-3.5% savings on overall construction costs and the rate revision on marble, granite and related inputs an additional 0.5-1.0% (depending on the project segment and material mix)," Crisil said.

"Overall, the construction cost is estimated to decline by 3.5-4.5%. This will improve project viability, support developer margins, and—if partially passed on—enhance affordability of home-buyers," it said in a report.

With no change in property GST rates, buyer sentiment remains unaffected, avoiding confusion or deferment of purchase decisions, it said adding improved margin outlook may encourage developers to launch new projects, especially in affordable and mid-income segments.

"Overall, the reforms are marginally positive for the housing sector."

Glenmark starts clinical trials for lung cancer drug

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Friday said it has initiated a multi-country Phase 3 clinical trial for Envafolimab, a novel drug for third-stage non-small cell lung cancer.

The company said it has received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India to begin patient enrolment and dosing in the country. In parallel, the drug firm has submitted a clinical trial application in Russia and is preparing to open additional clinical trial sites in Brazil and Mexico, Glenmark said.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide.

Adani Power gets nod for 1:5 stock split

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani Power said it has received shareholders' approval for a stock split in the ratio of 1:5 through a postal ballot notice issued on August 1, 2025.

The resolution has been considered as duly passed with the requisite majority, as mentioned in the postal ballot notice, a regulatory filing stated.

According to the notice, each equity share of ₹10 will be sub-divided into five fully paid-up equity shares of the face value of ₹2 each, ranking *pari passu* in all respects.

The company explained that the board, at its meeting on August 1, 2025, approved and recommended the share split to facilitate greater participation from retail and small investors.

There will be no change in authorised capital amount.

There will not be any change in the amount of authorised, issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the company.

'REITs, InvITs AUM crossed ₹9 lakh cr.'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) instruments are becoming popular in India as their combined assets under management have crossed ₹9 lakh crore in the last nine years, as per industry bodies IRA and BIA.

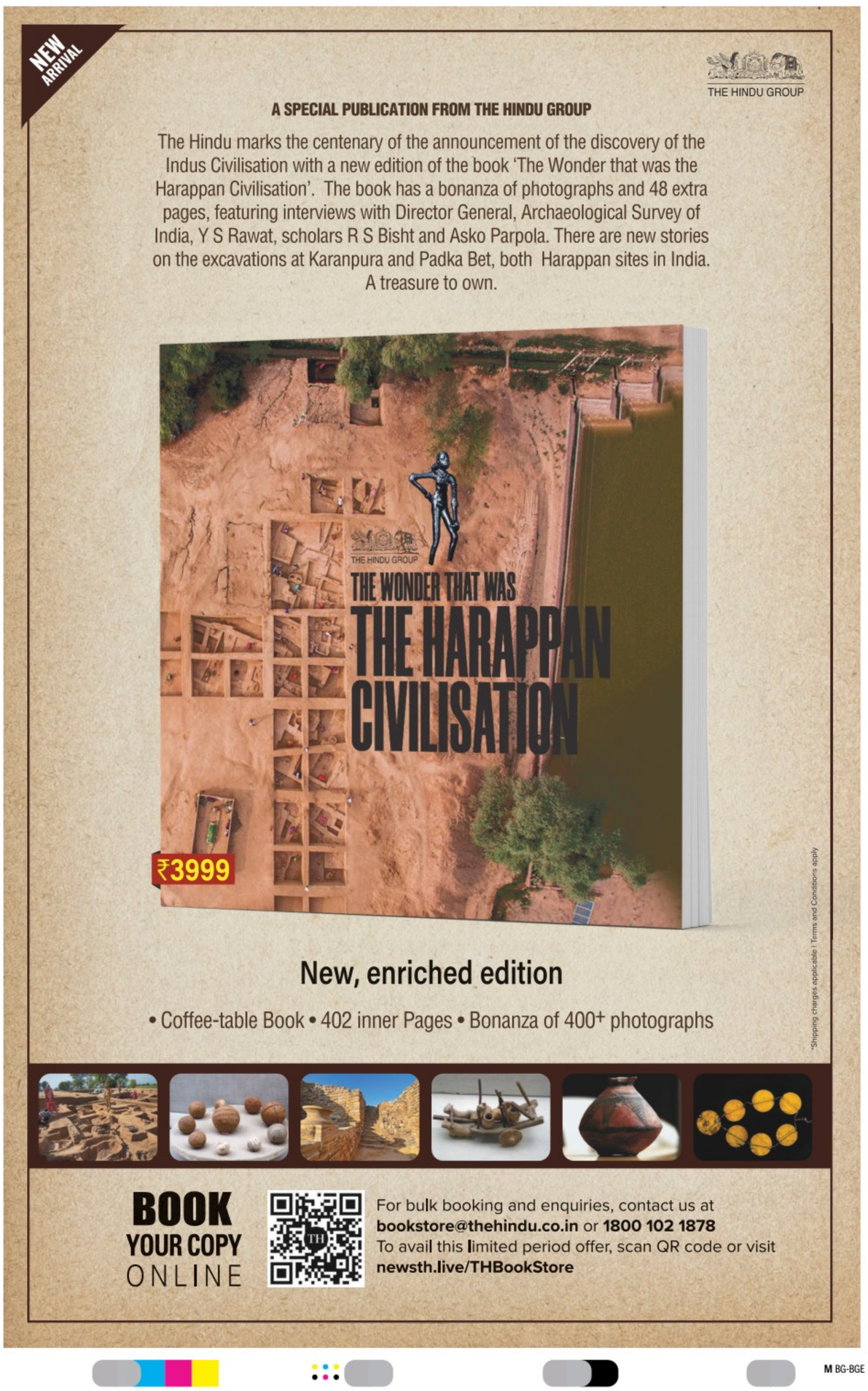
The combined AUM of REITs and InvITs are expected to touch ₹25 lakh crore by 2030, as per the projections of The Indian REITs Association (IRA) and Bharat InvITs Association (BIA).

At present, there are five listed REITs in India - Brookfield India Real Estate Trust, Embassy Office Parks REIT, Mindspace Business Parks REIT, Nexus Select Trust, and Knowledge Realty Trust.

Currently, there are 27 Sebi-registered InvITs, and out of these, five are publicly listed on the stock exchanges, while 23 are privately listed.

The first InvIT was registered in 2016, while the first REIT got listed in 2019.

On Friday, IRA and BIA, which jointly hosted the first product awareness programme in the national capital, highlighted assets under management (AUM) of InvITS and REITs currently stand at around ₹7 lakh crore and ₹2.25 lakh crore, respectively.


NEW ARRIVAL
THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
The Hindu marks the centenary of the announcement of the discovery of the Indus Civilisation with a new edition of the book 'The Wonder that was the Harappan Civilisation'. The book has a bonanza of photographs and 48 extra pages, featuring interviews with Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Y S Rawat, scholars R S Bisht and Asko Parpola. There are new stories on the excavations at Karanpura and Padka Bet, both Harappan sites in India.
A treasure to own.
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WASHINGTON

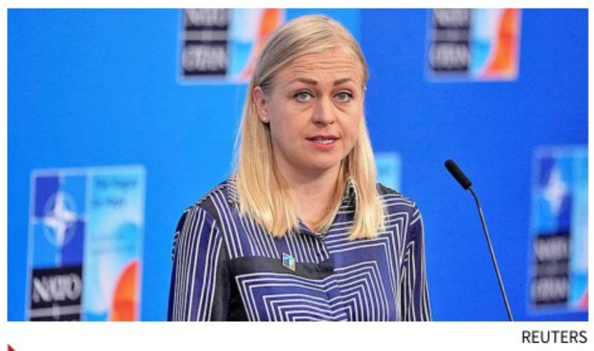
Trump rebrands Department of Defence as 'Department of War'

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump is changing the name of the Department of Defence to the Department of War, the White House said, insisting the rebrand will project a more powerful image. While the official name is set in law, Trump in an executive order is authorizing use of the new label as a "secondary title". AFP

HELSINKI

Finland to sign a deal on two-state solution for Israel, Palestinians



REUTERS

Finland said it would sign a French-Saudi declaration on a two-state solution between Israelis and the Palestinians but stopped short of announcing a date for recognising Palestinian statehood. "It is the most significant international effort in years to create the conditions for a two-state solution," Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen said. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. agents arrest 475 in raid on Hyundai-LG plant in Georgia

AP

South Koreans suspected of working in the U.S. illegally were the majority of the 475 people arrested in a raid on a Hyundai-LG battery plant being built in Georgia. The raid came as President Donald Trump cracks down on immigrants across the country, vowing to carry out the largest deportation drive in U.S. history. AFP

BEIJING

China to impose temporary anti-dumping duties on EU pork

REUTERS

China said it would impose temporary anti-dumping duties on EU pork imports, delivering another blow to shaky ties between the economic powerhouses as Brussels vowed to protect its producers. The import duties range from 15.6% to 62.4% and will enter into force on September 10, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said. AFP

Israel's Gaza City takeover bid begins with strike on high-rise

Defence Minister Israel Katz says the attack on the building is just the beginning, while warning that 'when the door opens it will not close' and adds that the Army's activity will only increase

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel struck a high-rise building on Friday as the Army ramped up an offensive in preparations to take over Gaza City.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said the strike on the building was just the beginning, warning "when the door opens it will not close" and the Army's activity will increase.

His comments come days after Israel began mobilising tens of thousands of reservists and repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City and other Hamas strongholds, which has sparked opposition.

New frontier: Smoke billows during Israel's attack on the Mushtaha Tower in Gaza City on Friday. AFP

Palestinians said Israel's strike on Friday targeted the Mushtaha tower in Gaza City, located in the southern area of the once-upscale Rimal neighbourhood. Israel said it struck the building because it was used for Hamas surveillance.

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones" where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate.

That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the Israel-Hamas war. Moving costs thousands of dollars and finding space in the overcrowded south to pitch a tent feels impossible. But staying behind, they say, could be deadly.

Nobel laureates, Fields medallists call for an end to hostilities in Gaza Strip

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

More than 4,400 scientists worldwide have signed a statement urging immediate action to address the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza. The signatories include 14 Nobel laureates, five Fields Medal winners, 20 Breakthrough Prize recipients, 34 Dirac Prize winners, and four Wolf Prize winners.

The statement, issued in personal capacity by the scientists and seen by *The Hindu*, highlights widespread shortages of food, medicine, and education, and condemns the large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure at Israel's hands in Gaza. It also urges the Government of Israel to end what it describes as a "human-made humanitarian crisis".

Dire straits: The group also urged the Government of Israel to end what it describes as a human-made humanitarian crisis. REUTERS

The document also acknowledges the October 2023 attack by Hamas and calls for the release of hostages, but stresses that nothing in the sequence of events justifies what it calls the "horrors currently being visited on a civilian population."

The statement comes amid reports that more than 60,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since October 2023, including thousands of children.

The appeal by scientists notes that nearly a thousand infants under the age of one are reported among the dead. The signatories argue that the immediate priority must be to ensure access to food, healthcare, and education for civilians, and to end the large-scale loss of life.

The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), held last month in Mumbai, became a focal point of the wider debate. At its international board meeting, representatives of 64 participating countries voted to suspend Israel as a recognised national team in future Olympiads. The decision means that while Israeli students may still participate individually, they will not compete under their national flag from 2026.

Conservative Thai tycoon wins parliament vote to become PM

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Right-wing Thai tycoon Anutin Charnvirakul was confirmed on Friday by parliament as the nation's next Prime Minister, ousting the dominant populist Shinawatra dynasty.

Their Pheu Thai party has monopolised the top office since 2023 elections, but they have been bedevilled by a series of setbacks and a court ruling that resulted in dynasty heiress Paetongtarn Shinawatra's sacking as prime minister last week.

Construction magnate Anutin Charnvirakul rushed into the power vacuum, forming a coalition of opposition blocs to shut out Pheu Thai.

Anutin Charnvirakul

Thaksin Shinawatra, the dynasty patriarch, flew out of the kingdom in the hours ahead of Friday's vote and was bound for Dubai, where he said he would visit friends and seek medical treatment.

Mr. Anutin won 311 votes, securing a comfortable majority of the 492 MPs in the National Assembly's lower house, official final results showed – comfortably outstripping Pheu Thai's candidate.

Mr. Anutin's elevation still needs to be endorsed by Thailand's king to become official.

Brief stint

He won crucial backing in Friday's vote from the largest parliamentary bloc, the 143-seat People's Party.

However, their support was given only on the condition that parliament is dissolved within four months in order to hold fresh polls.

U.K. Deputy PM quits after underpaying on a property tax

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Britain's Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner resigned on Friday after an investigation found she breached the ministerial code by underpaying on a property tax, in a major blow to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's embattled Labour government.

Ms. Rayner, a figurehead among the party's left-wing base, had earlier this week admitted not paying enough of a surcharge on the flat purchase and referred herself to the government's independent ethics adviser.

"I accept that I did not meet the highest standards," Ms. Rayner wrote in her resignation letter to Mr. Starmer, adding she would also be stepping down as Housing Minister and deputy leader of the Labour Party.

Cabinet shuffle

Mr. Starmer moved Foreign Minister David Lammy to become Deputy Prime Minister and replaced him with Interior Minister Yvette Cooper. She was in turn replaced by Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood.

Foreign troops in Ukraine would be legitimate targets, says Putin

Reuters
KYIV/WASHINGTON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday that thousands of foreign troops could be deployed to his country under post-war security guarantees, but Russian leader Vladimir Putin said Moscow would regard them as legitimate targets to attack. The comments underlined the gulf between Kyiv and Moscow as Western pessimism mounts over prospects for ending Russia's war in Ukraine quickly.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday that 26 countries had pledged to provide post-war security guarantees to Ukraine.

Macron had said 26 countries pledged to provide post-war security guarantees to Ukraine

Mr. Macron initially said those countries would deploy to Ukraine, but later said some of them would provide guarantees while remaining outside Ukraine, for example by helping to train and equip Kyiv's forces.

"It is important that we are discussing all this (security guarantees) ... it will definitely be in the thousands (of troops), not just a few," Zelenskyy said after meeting Antonio Costa, a senior European Union official, in western Ukraine.

Russia has long said one of its reasons for going to war in Ukraine was to prevent NATO from admitting Kyiv as a member. "Therefore, if some troops appear there, especially now, during military operations, we proceed from the fact that these will be legitimate targets for destruction," Mr. Putin told an economic forum in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok. "And if decisions are reached that lead to peace, to long-term peace, then I simply do not see any sense in their presence on the territory of Ukraine, full stop," he added.

Sport

Rahil leads a 1-2 for RACR Castrol Power1 in qualifier

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Hyderabad's Rahil Pillarisetty, on a Yamaha R3, led a 1-2 for RACR Castrol Power1 in the qualifying session of the premier class Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open in the third round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI National motorcycle racing championships, which commenced at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday.

The results:

Qualifying (3 best laps):

Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, RACR Castrol Power1) 01m, 47.975s); 2. Anish Damodar Shetty (Bengaluru, RACR Castrol Power1) 01:48.546; 3. Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) 01:48.728.

Rahil.

Super Stock 200cc

Intermediate: 1. Kamal Navas (Chennai, Rockers Racing) 02:05.476; 2. Mohamed Samrul Zubair (Hyderabad, Motul Sparks Racing) 02:05.910; 3. Vyshak Shoban (Chennai, Speed Up Racing) 02:05.948.

Stock 301-400cc (Novice): 1. Mohamed Mikhail (Tiruvallur, Mad Rabbit Racing) 01:59.017; 2. Jagadeesh Nagaraj (Bengaluru, Motul Sparks Racing) 01:59.251; 3. Kamal Navas (Chennai, Rockers Racing) 02:01.015.

Stock 165cc (Novice): 1. Rajender Beedani (Hyderabad, MAI Racing) 02:08.217; 2. C.S. Kedarnadh (Tirupati, Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) 02:08.349; 3. Amit Prasad (Mysuru, Mad Rabbit Racing) 02:09.868.

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship:

Expert (Apache RR 310): 1. Manoj Yesuadiayan (Chennai) 01:55.669; 2. P. Mohan Babu (Chennai) 01:56.351; 3. Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (Chennai) 01:56.478.

Women (Apache RTR 200): 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan (Chennai) 02:11.988; 2. Elakiya Ravi (Chennai) 02:12.630; 3. S.P. Shuria (Bengaluru) 02:13.044.

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (Honda CB300F): 1. R. Solomon (Chennai) 02:05.931; 2. Raivat Dhar (Jammu) 02:06.167; 3. Ann Jennifer (Chennai) 02:07.495.

Breetzke sizzles as SA wraps up series

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Matthew Breetzke became the first batter in ODI history to start his career with five consecutive scores of fifty or more as South Africa beat England by five runs for a series-clinching win at Lord's on Thursday.

Victory gave the Proteas an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, with Breetzke's 85 the cornerstone of the team's imposing 330 for eight.

England, skittled out for 131 in the first ODI, kept hitting all the way down the order before, needing 16 to win off the last over, it was held to a total of 325 for nine.

Joe Root and Jos Buttler both made 61, with rising star Jacob Bethell hitting a quickfire 58 and tailender Jofra Archer 27 not out.

Breetzke... on the attack. AP

But with South Africa fast bowler Nandre Burger picking up three for 63, the Proteas just had enough in reserve in a match that produced 655 runs.

The scores: South Africa 330/8 in 50 overs (Breetzke 85, Stubbs 58; Archer 4/62) bt England 325/9 in 50 overs (Root 61, Buttler 61, Bethell 58; Burger 3/63).

TNCA President's XI holds the aces against Hyderabad

BUCHI BABU

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

TNCA President's XI will take on Hyderabad in the summit clash of the Buchi Babu tournament at the CSK High-Performance Centre starting on Saturday.

For the hosts, the preparatory tournament has been productive, giving both regulars and a few contenders a chance to get into rhythm before the Ranji Trophy starts next month.

Skipper Pradosh Ranjan Paul has led from the front for the home team, scoring 331 runs from four games. The left-hander, who was part of the India-A set-up two years ago, had a lean run over the last two seasons and needed a big one this year.

Pradosh has scored a half-century in each of the four games during the Buchi Babu campaign, and will look to make a big one in the final.

C. Andre Siddarth, B. Indrajith, and R. Vimal Khumar have also done well, each one of them scoring at least one century.

On the bowling front, left-arm spinner P. Vidyuth has shown promise, scalping 23 wickets, including a seven-for in the semifinals against Jammu & Kashmir that helped his side take the first-innings lead.

Hyderabad, the reigning champion, meanwhile, has demonstrated remarkable resilience while coming out on top in close encounters.

Varun Goud has been the standout performer, leading the run charts with 371 runs, including a century and a crucial 91 in the semifinal against Haryana.

Opener P. Nitish Reddy, skipper Rahul Singh and middle-order batter Hima Teja have also made crucial contributions, while spinners Rohit Rayudu and Aniketh Reddy have chipped in with vital blows.

The final promises to be a close battle between two evenly matched sides, with Tamil Nadu holding a slight edge after convincingly beating all its opponents so far.

CHAMPION STUFF

Dabrowski-Routliffe duo upsets top seeds, clinches US Open title

AP

Canadian-Kiwi duo Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe overcame Czech Katerina Siniakova and American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-4 in the US Open women's doubles final on Friday, lifting the trophy in New York for a second time. Dabrowski and Routliffe avenged their defeat to the same opponents in the 2024 Wimbledon final.

MIXED LUCK

Gukesh held by Erdogmus; Praggnanandhaa scores first win

FIDE

D. Gukesh was held to a draw by lower-rated Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus while top seed R. Praggnanandhaa posted a win over Ivan Zemlyanskii in round two of the Open section in the FIDE Grand Swiss 2025 in Samarkand. Vidit Gujrathi drew with Abhimanyu Puranik while Arjun Erigaisi scored over Haik Martirosyan.

CLOSE CONTEST

Afghanistan posts a thrilling win, UAE bows out without a victory

AFP

Afghanistan beat the UAE by four runs in the final league match of the T20I tri-series at Sharjah on Friday. Afghanistan will meet Pakistan in Sunday's final. The UAE lost all four matches.
The scores: Afghanistan 170/4 in 20 overs (Gurbaz 40, Zadran 48, Ali 2/23) bt UAE 166/5 in 20 overs (Waseem 44, Asif 40).

GRITTY SHOW

Steelers' remarkable turnaround leaves Yoddhas stunned

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Haryana Steelers, trailing by 11 points at one stage, scripted a sensational comeback to beat UP Yoddhas 37-32 in a PKL 12 contest in Visakhapatnam on Friday. Steelers' Rahul Ahri and Rahul Sethpal came up with High Fives while Gagan Gowda's Super 10 went in vain for Yoddhas. **Other result:** U Mumba bt Bengaluru Bulls 48-28.

Buoyant India hopes to book final spot

The host needs only a draw against China to ensure a top-two finish; Malaysia meets defending champion Korea in another vital fixture

Time to take charge: The onus is on Mandeep to be the strike force. R.V. MOORTHY

ASIA CUP

Uthra Ganesan
RAJGIR

Five games into the tournament and two wins away from assuring itself of a World Cup spot, the Indian men's hockey team has finally begun to look like the free-flowing machine it was expected to be during the Asia Cup. On Saturday, it would look to continue the momentum against China in its final Super 4s match.

A win would not only help India seal a final spot but prove a point to those who have been concerned with its laborious performances so far – that its victory against the same opponent in the opening match was deserved, that it has adjusted to the tough playing conditions well and, most importantly, not depended on other results to progress in the tournament.

A draw would be suffice but it would not be enough to answer the questions.

India's comprehensive win against Malaysia in its last outing on Thursday visibly eased the pressure on the players, who finally looked relaxed for perhaps the first time in the competition.

There was more intent and aggression but also a lot more control. Coach Craig Fulton had asked for more composure and the need to balance the expectations of the crowd while focusing on the structure and the players delivered.

They would hope to do it again against China, which shocked defending champion Korea 3-0.

India's midfield has been impressive so far but the forwards' finishing has let it down before finally showing glimpses of its potential.

While Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Dilpreet Singh have had their chances, Shilanand Lakra, returning to national duty after almost two years of injury lay-off, has done well.

Surprisingly, the experienced Mandeep Singh has not really had much to do but a few times he has proved why he is so highly rated. One would expect him to take charge more and be the strike force instead of simply playing a supporting role.

The defence has been the weak point more than once and Krishan Pathak's form has been less than optimal.

Having conceded seven out of the eight goals let in by India so far, the goalkeeper would be hoping to shake off any self-doubts.

The one area China has been better than almost everyone is that the penalty corner conversion, combined with its stubborn, deep and accurate defence, has helped the team. However, that singular gameplay can also be its weakness given that the team has not really tried anything different.

Denying them the space and opportunity inside the circle may help India curb the threat to a large extent.

Malaysia, meanwhile, would be hoping to shrug off the defeat to reach its third Asia Cup final when it plays holder Korea, which needs a win to keep its slim hopes alive.

Saturday's matches:
7-8 playoff: Taiwan vs Kazakhstan (2.30 p.m.).
Super 4s: Korea vs Malaysia (5 p.m.), India vs China (7.30 p.m.).

Jagadeesan misses double ton, South amasses 536

DULEEP TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A horror mix-up cost South Zone's N. Jagadeesan a double century against North Zone on the second day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal at BCCI CoE Ground (1) here on Friday.

Jagadeesan's long vigil was cut short on 197 after a run-out involving partner Ricky Bhui. The Tamil Nadu opener's knock, to go with contributions from Bhui (54) and Tanay Thyagarajan (58), took South Zone to a commanding 536 by end of play.

After batting nearly four full sessions, Jagadeesan was left fuming when Bhui did not respond to a quick single call.

Losing his cool

Both Jagadeesan and Bhui were left stranded at the same end. Bhui was expected to sacrifice his wicket for the set batter, but it was not to be. An upset Jagadeesan remonstrated and left the ground, while Bhui threw his head back in despair.

Bhui went on to build a steady partnership with Salman Nizar, who made 29.

In good touch: Shubham holds the key to Central's hopes of gaining the first-innings lead. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hyderabad's Tanay and Gurjapneet Singh (29) then frustrated North with a 63-run eighth-wicket stand.

Left-arm spinner Nishant Sindhu toiled hard, bowling 47.2 overs to finish with figures of five for 125.

In the other semifinal, Central Zone fought hard against West Zone. West was only able to add 75 runs to its overnight total, and was dismissed for 438.

Tanush Kotian (76) and skipper Shardul Thakur (64) missed out on centuries as spinners Saransh Jain and Harsh Dubey picked up quick wickets.

Shubham on song

In reply, the Central top-order stayed compact to guide the side to 229 for two. Shubham Sharma (60 batting) and Rajat Patidar (47 batting) looked in good touch, and will hold the key to Central's hopes of taking the all-important first innings lead.

The scores:
At BCCI CoE Ground (1): South Zone 536 in 169.2 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 43, N. Jagadeesan 197, Devdutt Padikkal 57, Ricky Bhui 54, Tanay Thyagarajan 58, Nishant Sindhu 5/125) vs North Zone.
At BCCI CoE Ground (2): West Zone 438 in 108 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 184, Tanush Kotian 76, Shardul Thakur 64, Saransh Jain 3/121, Harsh Dubey 3/118) vs Central Zone 229/2 in 67 overs (Ayush Pandey 40, Danish Malewar 76, Shubham Sharma 60 batting, Rajat Patidar 47 batting).

Taken the positives from the India call-up: Jagadeesan

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A little over a month ago, N. Jagadeesan earned his maiden Test call-up as a replacement for an injured Rishabh Pant.

Though he did not feature in the eleven for that fifth Test against England a month ago, the experience of being a part of the Indian team meant the world to him.

This positive feeling has carried into the Duleep Trophy here, where Jagadeesan hit a fine 197 to put South Zone on top against North Zone.

"I took the positives from the India call-up in terms of being more confident. Getting an India call-up is something which a lot of people dream of.

"I was very lucky to be there," Jagadeesan said here on Friday.

The Tamil Nadu wicket-keeper-batter explained that he was guarded against being overwhelmed by the experience. "It was very important for me to not get overwhelmed, or to try and copy someone in the Indian team just because they've already been there. I've fought my way to get to the Indian team, so it is important for me to stick to what I've done," Jagadeesan said.

Keep away pressure

The race to earn a wicket-keeper-batter spot in the Indian team is crowded with talent, which puts the onus on Jagadeesan to consistently make big scores on the domestic circuit. But he is wary of putting too much pressure on himself.

"I'm here to just enjoy every match.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to play here, because there are a billion people who would love to play in the Duleep Trophy, Ranji Trophy, or to be a part of the Indian team," Jagadeesan said.

My game, my style: Jagadeesan felt that it was important for him to stick to what he had done, and not copy others. K. MURALI KUMAR

Anisimova sets up title clash with Sabalenka

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Reigning champion and world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka will play Amanda Anisimova in the US Open final.

Sabalenka overcame Jessica Pegula 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a re-run of last year's final and is seeking to become the first player to successfully defend the title in New York since Serena Williams in 2014.

The 27-year-old from Belarus is through to her third successive US Open final.

Sabalenka will try to avenge her Wimbledon semifinal loss to Anisimova on Saturday.

The eighth-seeded Anisimova reached her second Major final in a row after rallying to overcome Naomi Osaka 6-7(4), 7-6(3), 6-3 in a match that stretched well past midnight in New York.

Osaka, seeded 23rd, took the first set in a tie-break. Four breaks in six games to begin the second set betrayed the nerves on both sides.

Anisimova broke for third time to go 5-4 up, but as in the previous two instances then lost her own serve, double-faulting to keep Osaka in the set.

In a reversal of the first tie-break, Anisimova took charge of the second to level the contest.

Anisimova carried that momentum into the decider and broke for a 3-1 cushion as she continued to punish Osaka's ineffective second serve.

Two comfortable service games moved Anisimova 5-2 clear. Osaka held before the American earned two match points in a dramatic final game.

Osaka saved both and carved out two break points only for Anisimova to cut short the comeback and secure victory at the third attempt.

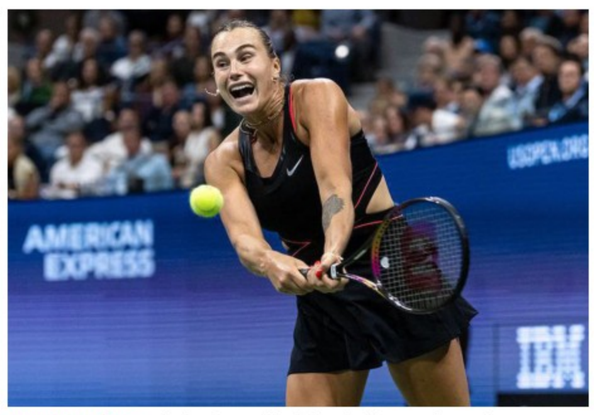
Yuki-Venus pair loses

India's Yuki Bhambri ended a semifinalist at the men's doubles event with partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a Grand Slam.

The Indo-Kiwi pair went down 7-6(2), 6-7(5), 4-6 in a thrilling contest to the experienced sixth-seeded British pair of Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury.

The 33-year-old from Delhi became only the sixth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semifinals, after Vijay Amritraj, Anand Amritraj, Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna.

The results: Semifinals:
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 5-Pegula (USA) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; 8-Anisimova (USA) bt 23-Osaka (Jpn) 6-7(4), 7-6(3), 6-3.
Men: Doubles: 6-Skupski & Salisbury (GBr) bt Yuki & Venus (Nzl) 6-7(2), 7-6(5), 6-4.
5-Granollers (Esp) & Zeballos (Arg) bt Cash & Tracy (USA) 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.



Tough outing: Sabalenka quelled the challenge of Pegula in a re-run of last year's summit clash. REUTERS

Sumit, Neeraj and Jaismine make it to the pre-quarterfinals

BOXING

Sports Bureau

Sumit Kundu, Neeraj Phogat and Jaismine Lamboria posted wins in the round of 32 to reach the pre-quarterfinals on the second day of the World boxing championships in Liverpool on Thursday.

Sumit outsmarted Jordanian Mohammad Alhussein 5-0 in a men's 75kg bout. Neeraj edged past Krista Kovalainen 3-2 in a hard-fought women's 65kg contest, while Jaismine defeated Ukraine's Daria-Olha Hutarina 5-0 in a 57kg duel.

Sumit, competing in a top flight event after two years, applied constant pressure on Alhussein by closing the gap on the taller counterpuncher and raining spectacular power-packed punches to win the bout convincingly.

Sumit will take on Paris Olympian Rami Kiwan of Bulgaria next.

Neeraj delivered some fine head shots from a long range to take the first round 3-2 before Krista used her combinations to dominate the second round.

Amid trading of solid blows, Neeraj stayed ahead in the third round and fixed a last-16 meeting with England's Sacha Hickey.

Olympian Jaismine and Daria-Olha began too cautiously, but the former had an upperhand in the first round. The tall southpaw extended her lead in the second round and boxed with more confidence in the final to land a few punches from close range and win the fight.

Jaismine will meet Brazilian Jucielen Romeu.

In the men's 90kg category, Harsh Choudhary exited early after losing to Poland's Adam Tutak in a round of 32 fight.

The Indian lost when the referee stopped the contest in the third round.

Indian women win big in their campaign opener

Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU (CHINA)

Udita Duhan and Beauty Dung Dung scored a brace each as India began its campaign in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 11-0 thrashing of Thailand here on Friday.

Udita scored in the 30th and 52nd minutes from penalty corners while Dung Dung struck in the 45th and 54th minutes.

India's other goal-scorers were Mumtaz Khan (seventh), Sangita Kumari (10th), Navneet Kaur (16th), Lalremsiami (18th), Thoudam Suman Devi (49th), Sharmila Devi (57th) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (60th).

Smooth start: The Indians dominated from the word go and scored at will. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

India, currently ranked ninth in the world, led 5-0 at half-time in the Pool B match against the 30th-ranked Thailand.

India got nine penalty corners and converted five while Thailand did not earn any.

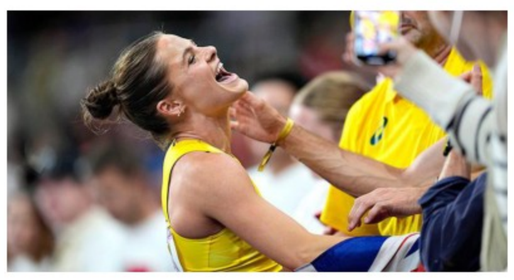
India will take on Japan on Saturday, followed by Singapore on Sept. 8.

The result:
India 11 (Mumtaz 7, Sangita 10, Navneet 16, Lalremsiami 18, Udita 30, 52, Dung Dung 45, 54, Thoudam Suman 49, Sharmila 57, Rutaja 60) bt Thailand 0.

INBRIEF

Boxing icons Tyson and Mayweather to fight in 2026

Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather have reached a deal on a potential exhibition fight in 2026, promoter CSI Sports said on Thursday but no date or location was given for the bout between the heavyweight great Tyson and undefeated multi-weight champ Mayweather.



Olympic pole vault champion Nina Kennedy out of Worlds

Olympic pole vault gold medallist Nina Kennedy pulled out of the World championships on Friday with a strained muscle in a "brutal" setback having just recovered from a hamstring operation. The Australian, who is also the world champion, had spoken this week about her battle to recover from surgery in time for the championships in Tokyo from September 13 to 21. But after being named in the Australian team, her efforts proved to be in vain.

Hyderabad Sunday races cancelled

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) resolved to cancel Sunday's (Sept. 7) races due to paucity of acceptors. However, the second Classic of the season – Y. Shanker Rao Memorial Deccan Colts Championship Stakes – slated on Sunday (Sept. 7) will now be run Monday (Sept. 8).

Jhingan undergoes surgery, in doubt for Asian Cup qualifiers

India defender Sandesh Jhingan has successfully undergone surgery for a cheekbone fracture which he sustained while playing in the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan against Iran, his Indian Super League side FC Goa said on Friday. The surgery has rendered the 32-year-old's comeback for two crucial AFC Asian Cup qualifying round matches next month in doubt. The AIFF said in a statement that Jhingan "is under expert medical care in Goa, and his recovery and rehabilitation are being closely monitored". "AIFF and FC Goa remain fully aligned in ensuring Sandesh receives the best treatment and every support required during this period," the statement said. "The AIFF reaffirms its commitment to always stand by players and clubs whenever injuries occur on national duty, extending complete care and assistance."

Shaurya-Prakaash and Aleena-Angel pairs triumph

Shaurya Bharadwaj and Prakaash Sarran won the boys' doubles title while Aleena Farid and Angel Patel lifted the girls' doubles trophy at the KSLTA ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors in Bengaluru on Friday.

The results: Singles: (semifinals): Boys: Rohith Gobinath bt Ojas Mehlawat 6-4, 6-2; Om Verma bt Adhiraj Thakur 6-1, 6-0.
Girls: Snighda Kanta bt Aleena Farid 6-3, 7-6(4); Deepshika Vinayagamurthy bt Aahan Aahan 1-6, 6-3, 6-1.
Doubles (finals): Boys: Shaurya Bharadwaj & Prakaash Sarran bt Yashwin Dahiya & Aditya Mor 6-3, 6-1.
Girls: Aleena Farid & Angel Patel bt Aahan Aahan & Divya Ungrish 6-4, 6-1.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Hockey Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30, 5; India vs China, 7.30 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Sri Lanka: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
Formula One: Italian GP (Qualifying), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8 p.m.
US Open: Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.

Messi puts on a show in final home qualifier

Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay seal World Cup spots; Slovakia stuns Germany while Spain posts a facile win over Bulgaria; Poland holds the Dutch

FOOTBALL

Agence France-Presse
MONTEVIDEO

Lionel Messi scored twice for Argentina in emotional scenes in Buenos Aires on Thursday while Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay joined the reigning champion at next year's FIFA World Cup.

With Argentina having already long booked its place at the tournament to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico, Messi struck in the 39th and 80th minutes in a 3-0 home win over Venezuela.

Messi, who has won the Ballon d'Or eight times, sparkled in front of an adoring crowd of 80,000 at the Mas Monumental Stadium in his last home qualifier for his country.

The Argentine legend will turn 39 during next year's World Cup, but despite his advanced years he looks set to play another pivotal role as Lionel Scaloni's side defends its crown.

Messi had his three sons with him before kick-off and his father, Jorge, was also in attendance to mark the occasion. Uruguay sealed its berth in by beating Peru 3-0 at home while Colombia saw off Bolivia by the same scoreline.

Weaving his magic: Messi scored a brace in front of an adoring crowd of 80,000 at the Mas Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires. REUTERS

Paraguay also reached the 2026 finals after a goalless home draw against already qualified Ecuador.

Brazil too has also already made the cut from South America.

Germany went down to a shock 2-0 defeat in Slovakia in its opening qualifier on Thursday, while Spain kicked off its bid to reach the finals with a comfortable 3-0 victory in Bulgaria.

Atletico Madrid's David Hancko burst untracked into the penalty box to fire Slovakia into the lead just before half-time against Germany in Bratislava.

David Strelec, who has just signed for Middlesbrough in the English Championship, then made it two with a brilliant strike high into the top corner 10 minutes into the second half.

The result gives Slovakia a dream start in Group-A as its attempts to qualify for a first World Cup since 2010.

Germany, meanwhile, finds itself immediately under pressure even if this game was its toughest fixture in the group on paper.

The Netherlands was held to a 1-1 draw by Poland in Rotterdam in Group-G.

The results: South America: Brazil 3 (Estvao 38, Paqueta 72, Guimaraes 76) bt Chile 0; Colombia 3 (Rodrigues 31, Cordoba 74, Quintero 83) bt Bolivia 0; Uruguay 3 (Aguirre 14, de Arrascaeta 58, Vinas 80) bt Peru 0; Argentina 3 (Messi 39 & 80, Martinez 76) bt Venezuela 0; Paraguay 0 drew with Ecuador 0.

Europe: Group-A: Slovakia 2 (Hancko 42, Strelec 55) bt Germany 0; Luxembourg 1 (Dardari 30) lost to Northern Ireland 3 (Reid 7, Charles 46, Devenny 69).

Group-E: Georgia 2 (Davitashvili 63, Kvaratskhelia 90+8) lost to Turkiye 3 (Muldur 3, Akturkoglu 41, 52); Bulgaria 0 lost to Spain 3 (Oyarzabal 5, Cucurella 30, Merino 38).

Group-G: Lithuania 1 (Gineitis 90+7-pen) drew with Malta 1 (Satariano 83); Netherlands 1 (Dumfries 28) drew with Poland 1 (Cash 80).

Group-J: Kazakhstan 0 lost to Wales 1 (Moore 24); Liechtenstein 0 lost to Belgium 6 (de Cuyper 29, Tielemans 46, 70-pen, Theate 60, de Bruyne 62, Fofana 90+1).

If you pick Samson in the team, you can't leave him out of the XI: Gavaskar

CRICKET

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar picked Sanju Samson to gain a spot as the wicketkeeper-batter in the team's playing eleven at the Asia Cup, ahead of Jitesh Sharma.

"It is a very good headache to have for any selection committee - you have two capable batters and somebody like Sanju Samson who can bat at three, and if needed, come down at six as a finisher," Gavaskar said in a media interaction organised by *Sony Sports Network*.

"And Jitesh has also done exceedingly well in the recently concluded IPL. But my feeling is that Sanju Samson will probably get the nod ahead of Jitesh, for at least the first couple of games. Then it depends on what his form is like for the rest of the tournament. If you take somebody like Sanju Samson in the core team, you cannot leave him out," Gavaskar said.

The batting legend stated that Shubman Gill is primed to carry his brilliant Test form into the shortest format.

"Gill has been very successful in the IPL, so there is no question that he has got the capability of doing well in T20s. He has scored more than 750 runs in the just concluded England Test series - that augurs well even for the T20 tournament. Clearly, having him back in the T20 team is a no-brainer," Gavaskar said.

Legend's backing: Gavaskar says Samson can bat at No.3 or as a finisher. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

The 76-year-old is not opposed to fielding three spinners - Varun Chakaravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel - in the playing eleven in the United Arab Emirates.

"They could play Varun, Kuldeep, Axar as the three spinners, and field two new ball bowlers and Hardik Pandya as the third new ball bowler. That way they still have six bowlers," Gavaskar said.

(*Sony Sports Network is the official broadcaster of the Asia Cup 2025. Watch live coverage Asia Cup 2025 starting from 9th September 7:00 PM onwards on Sony Sports Ten 1, Sony Sports Ten 5, Sony Sports Ten 3 Hindi, Sony Sports Ten 4 Tamil & Sony Sports Ten 4 Telugu channels.*).

KSCA Secretary's XI takes control

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

KSCA Secretary's XI secured the upper hand against Gujarat, reducing the latter to 73 for five at stumps on the second day of their KSCA Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial Cricket Tournament encounter, at the Kini Sports Arena here on Friday.

From an overnight 211 for seven, Secretary's XI made 373, courtesy half-centuries from M. Venkatesh (50) and Rajvir Wadhwa (80).

Its bowlers then collectively struck, with Madhav P. Bajaj, Venkatesh, Nischith Pai and Dheeraj Gowda snaring a wicket each.

The scores:
Assam 206 in 49.2 overs (Denish Das 83, Atharva Ankolekar 7/39) vs. Mumbai 174/3 in 43 overs (Musheer Khan 41, Akhil Herwadkar 54, Ajinkya Rahane 48 batting).
KSCA Secretary's XI 373 in 149.4 overs (Nikin Jose 81, Tushar Singh 42, Samit Dravid 45, M. Venkatesh 50, Rajvir Wadhwa 80) vs. Gujarat 73/5 in 26 overs.
Goa 211 in 62.2 overs & 104/2 in 29 overs (Ishaan Gadekar 51) vs. Vidarbha 208 in 61.2 overs (Atharva Taide 50, Darshan Nalkande 55).
KSCA President's XI 250 in 91.5 overs (E.J. Jasper 87, Nadeem Shaikh 4/49) vs. Maharashtra 14 for no loss.
Madhya Pradesh 333/8 in 123 overs (Arshad 102) vs. Tripura.
Chhattisgarh 254 in 90.5 overs (Sahban Khan 61, Abhilash 4/39) vs. KSCA XI 169/7 in 61.4 overs (R. Smaran 47).
In Mysuru: KSCA Colts 140 in 41 overs & 135/7 in 32 overs (Mohsin Khan 46, Vipin Sharma 4/40) vs. Himachal Pradesh 303 in 91.1 overs (Ankush Bains 96, Siddhant Purohit 68, Akash Vashisht 53, Shikhar Shetty 5/55).
Andhra 257 in 83.5 overs vs. Baroda 2856 in 96 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 50, Sukrit Pandey 81 batting, Ninad Rathwa 62).

Deepika and Jyothi to lead Indian challenge

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Seasoned archers Deepika Kumari and V. Jyothi Surekha will ride on their wealth of experience to lead a pack of Indians, including greenhorns and old hands, at the World Archery Championships starting in Gwangju, Korea, on Saturday.

Because of their better track record, the Indian compound archers inspire more confidence than their recurve counterparts. India had bagged three gold medals, including men's and women's individual crowns and the women's team title, and a bronze in compound in the previous edition in Berlin two years ago.

Individual defending champions Aditi Swami and Ojas Deotale missed out this time due to their wobbling form and stiff domestic competition.

An in-form Jyothi and Parneet Kaur, who were part of the gold-winning team with Aditi in Berlin, along with World youth silver medallist Prithika Pradeep make a formidable women's team. Jyothi has shown consistency this season, landing five World Cup stage medals. Parneet has competed non-stop and has won World Cup stage and World University Games medals.

The experienced Prathamesh Fuge and Aman Saini along with rising star Rishabh Yadav, who medalled in three World Cup stages and World Games this year, in the men's side have the potential to beat the best. Jyothi and Rishabh trained in Germany for 10 days before joining the rest of the squad in Korea.

"Training abroad without any distractions will help our archers," said compound coach Jiwanjot Singh Teja.

Olympians Deepika, a World Cup stage-2 bronze medallist, and Ankita Bhakat along with World youth medallist Gatha Khadake will look to realise their potential.

In the men's team, Olympian B. Dhiraj will lead Neeraj Chauhan and Rahul. Compound competitions start on Saturday, followed by recurve on Tuesday.

The squad: Recurve: Men: B. Dhiraj, Neeraj Chauhan, Rahul; **Women:** Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Gatha Khadake.
Compound: Men: Aman Saini, Prathamesh Fuge, Rishabh Yadav; **Women:** V. Jyothi Surekha, Parneet Kaur, Prithika Pradeep.

Norris sets fastest lap practice; Ferraris dazzle

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
MONZA

Ferrari made a flying start to its home Italian Formula One Grand Prix on Friday but McLaren's title contender Lando Norris, bouncing back from the body blow of car failure in the previous race, set the practice pace.

The Briton lapped Monza's sunlit 'Pista Magica' with a best lap of one minute 19.878 seconds in the afternoon's second session, 0.083 quicker than Ferrari's 2024 winner Charles Leclerc.

Zipping around: Norris scorched the Monza racetrack. AP

Norris is 34 points behind championship-leading teammate Oscar Piastri with runaway leader McLaren chasing a sixth win in a row on Sunday.

Former Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz was third fastest for Williams with Piastri fourth and Ferrari's seven-times World champion Lewis Hamilton fifth.

Hamilton, making his first Monza appearance in Ferrari red, and Leclerc had delighted the Ferrari fans with a surprise one-two in first practice. Five-times Italian GP winner Hamilton's leading time then was 1:20.117, with Leclerc 0.169 slower.

"The mood in general is very good, and we had a positive push from the tifosi (fans) all week, from Monday morning in front of the factory. This is an extra energy and a good one," said Ferrari boss Fred Vasseur.

Hamilton has yet to stand on the podium for Ferrari and Friday was a morale boost for the team.

Raise A Buck wins the feature event

RACING

MYSURU: Rakesh-trained Raise A Buck (Antony up) won the H.H. Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races held here on Friday (Sep 5).
The winner is owned by Mrs. G.K. Harini & Mr. Rakesh. Antony rode three races on the day.
1. VIRIJA PLATE (1,100M): ARMAMENT (Abhishek Mhatre) 1, D Golden Cup (Vinod Shinde) 2, Miracle Honey (Ayaz Khan) 3 and Fashionista (Aleemuddin) 4. 1/2, 3/4 and Shd. 1m, 06.66s. ₹23 (w), 10, 22 and 24 (p), SHP: 68, THP: 35, FP: 210, Q: 112, Trinella: 547/227, Exacta: 2,273/1,113. Favourite: Nimble Spirit.
Owner and trainer:: Mr. Ranjeet Shinde.
2. PUNE PLATE (1,100M): SPLENDID DREAM (Shreyas S) 1, Midnight Blue (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Republican Star (Rayan) 3 and Natural Look (Ankit Pal) 4. Not run: Adalard. 2-1/4, 3-3/4 and 1. 1m, 05.63s. ₹14 (w), 10, 16 and 13 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 29, FP: 34, Q: 23, Trinella: 78/33, Exacta: 131/56. Favourite: Splendid Dream.
Owner: Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.
3. SOMANATHPUR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400M): POWER OF GOLD (Akshay K) 1, Gandolfini (Srinath) 2, Verrazzano (Darshan) 3 and Carter (Rayan) 4. Not run: Chinky Pinky. 1/2, 3-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 25.51s. ₹21 (w), 21, 24 and 14 (p), SHP: 46, THP: 36, FP: 120, Q: 105, Trinella: 486/220, Exacta: 1,337/327. Favourite: Power Of Gold.
Owners: Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. Girish Mehta & M/s DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: Darius Byramji.
4. J.H. FOLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600M): SMALL DREAMS (Shreyas S) 1, Elfin Knight (Trevor) 2, Winfield (Antony) 3 and N R I Victory (Rayan) 4. 1/2, 1 and 2-1/4. 1m, 36.46s. ₹495 (w), 146, 12 and 15 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 35, FP: 2,109, Q: 567, Trinella: 4,790/4,106, Exacta: 24,185. Favourite: Elfin Knight.
Owners: Mr. Vikram Sreeram, Mrs. Sandhya Sreeram, Mr. Sandeep C. Raghuram, Mr. V. Srinivasa Murthy, Mr. Kiran Gowda, Mr. C.N. Shashikiran, Dr. T.S. Ravindra & M/S. Cherie Sports Pvt Ltd. Trainer: M.P. Vishesh.
5. H.H.SRI KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400M): RAISE A BUCK (Antony) 1, African Gold (Akshay K) 2, Mandarino (Arvind K) 3 and Champions Way (Yash) 4. 1, 2-1/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 22.32s. ₹108 (w), 33, 13 and 18 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 40, FP: 564, Q: 98, Trinella: 1,161/590, Exacta: 4,476/1,534. Favourite: African Gold.
Owners: Mrs. G.K. Harini & Mr. Rakesh. Trainer: Rakesh.
6. LAVASA PLATE (1,400M): CROSSWATER (Antony) 1, Don Carlos (Trevor) 2, Mazal Tov (Akshay K) 3 and Spectacular (Kuldeep S) 4. Shd, Nk and 1-3/4. 1m, 23.89s. ₹71 (w), 12, 11 and 16 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 42, FP: 129, Q: 41, Trinella: 244/131, Exacta: 3,416/4,392. Favourite: Don Carlos.
Owners: Mr & Mrs. Dilip Thomas rep. Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co Ltd. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.
7. SOMANATHPUR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400M): MONTERIO (Antony) 1, One Nation (Srinath) 2, Ancient History (Chethan K) 3 and Carat Love (Mukesh K) 4. Not run: Blue Origin. 5-1/4, 3-3/4 and 3/4. 1m, 25.11s. ₹30 (w), 15, 10 and 30 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 63, FP: 68, Q: 47, Trinella: 481/296, Exacta: 641/103. Favourite: Carat Love.
Owner: Mr. V. Shankar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.
Jackpot: ₹1,96,417 (two tkts.); Runner-up: 28,059 (six tkts.); Mini Jackpot: 1,474 (c/o); Treble (i): 1,375 (c/o); (ii): 2,282 (c/o).